

# THE *Country* GUIDE

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# Season's Greetings

That the Christmas Season  
may be filled with  
Happy Experiences and  
Fond Recollections for  
every member of your family  
is the sincere wish of  
the Board of Directors and  
the entire personnel of

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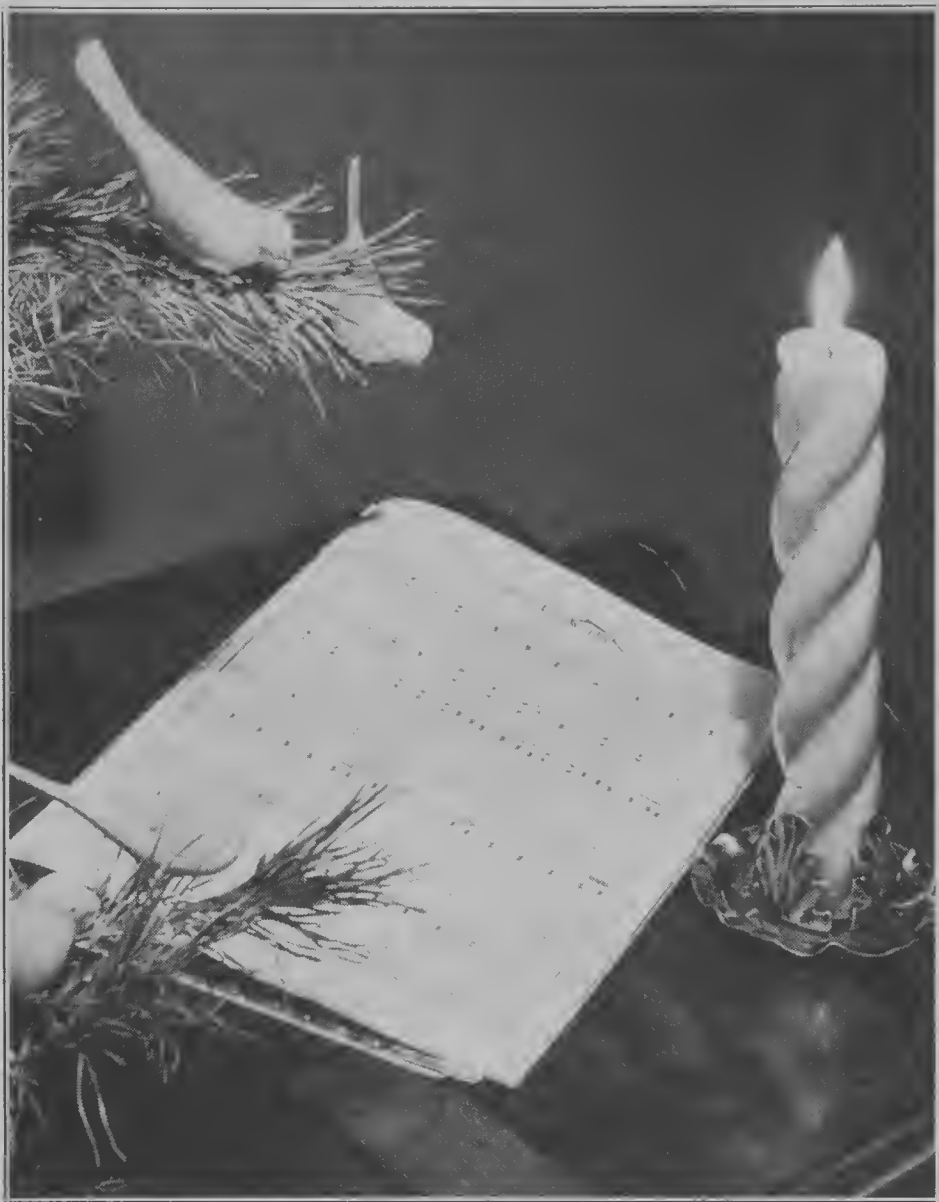


Photo by Eva Luoma

## THE *Country* GUIDE

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**"I wash 22,000 dishes  
a year... but I'm proud of  
my pretty hands!"**

You and Dorian Mehle have something in common. Every year, you wash a stack of dishes a quarter-mile high!

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Ask *him* how Goodyear Super Sure-Grips pull... how they wear... how they perform under soil conditions that are much like your own. Ask *him* how they pay off in the long run... day in, day out service.

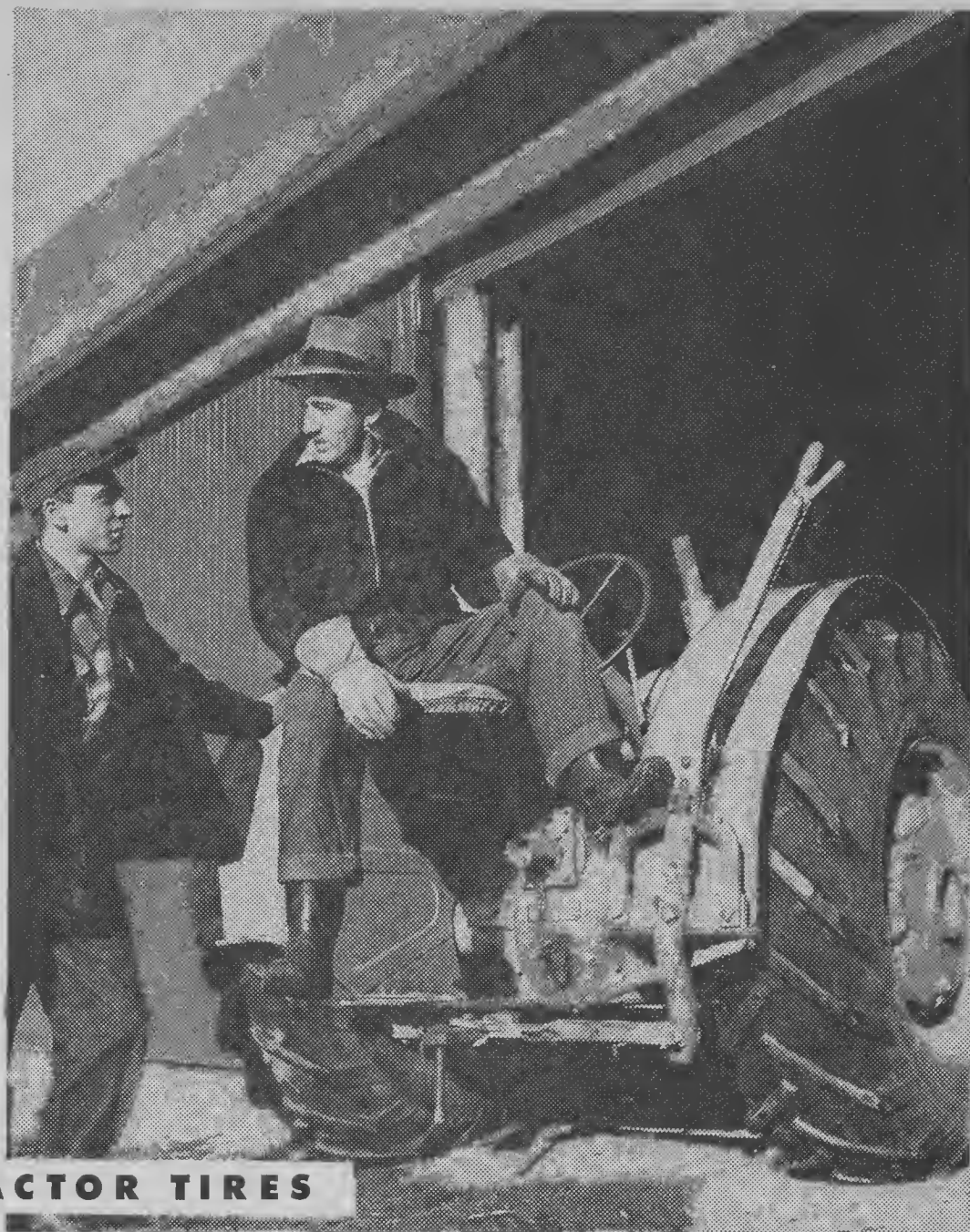
And ask *him* this most important question of all—*what make of tractor tires will he buy when his present ones need replacing.*

*We rest our case on what the man who uses Goodyear Super Sure-Grips answers.*

P.S. Your neighbour can tell you that Goodyear Super Sure-Grips are best. Let your Goodyear Dealer explain why.

## GOOD YEAR

### SUPER SURE-GRIP TRACTOR TIRES



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Wind erosion is one of the most urgent conservation problems on the prairies, and also on light soils in eastern Canada.

#### CONTROL METHODS



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- Rough and lumpy surface on summer fallow
- Strip cropping
- Cultivation at low speeds
- Windbreaks, Reforestation

Another urgent conservation problem is solved when you open a savings account at our nearest branch. With money, as with soil, conservation should be *regular*—so keep putting money into your account and watch the balance grow. Start saving now.

FM-13

Our series of booklets on Better Farm Practices is yours for the asking. Simply call in at—or write to—our nearest branch.

# The Canadian Bank of Commerce

# Under the Peace Tower

by HUGH BOYD

ONE sunny afternoon a native Alberta woman now living in Ottawa was showing her children one of Canada's most impressive historic memorials, the Brock monument at Queenston Heights. There were other visitors. One, whose accent placed him as from south of the Mason and Dixon line, enquired, "Who was this Brock?"

"Oh," said the Albertan, "brightly, 'he saved us from the wicked Americans.'"

"That war. You mean 1812." He sounded as if he fully approved of the outcome of that furious October day.

Maybe as a southerner he could be especially tolerant, although it is not discernible that Americans from the states most actively engaged are bothered by such reminders of the past. (As a modern American historian has written of the conflict: "Most Americans quickly erased from memory all save such splendid victories as Andrew Jackson's at the Battle of New Orleans.")

Similarly, Canadians dropping down below the border into lovely New England, whether or not they are of British stock, can view with deep interest, but without resentment, the inscription on the aging shaft at Lexington, erected while passions aroused in one of the turning points in world history still ran high: "... who fell on this Field, the first Victims to the Sword of British Tyranny and Oppression ..."

In the late fall of 1953 it has been comforting and reassuring to reflect on these almost casual reactions to the past. Amid the rapid spread of intolerance in some segments of the United States population, most Canadians and Americans still entertain their basic and almost automatic tolerance toward one another.

Ottawa is especially sensitive to trends in international relationships. Even before the friction aroused in this country by the Gouzenko case, there have been strains on the bond of friendship between two traditional friends and neighbors. Causes of these strains include the appropriate contribution to the Korean war (some Americans, skipping what Canada did positively in 1914 and again in 1939, prefer to concentrate on the events following June, 1950); and also attitudes toward the present Communist regime in China. Canada's failure to renounce the Reds—even though she has not recognized them as the de facto government of China—has been one source of irritation.

A common Canadian retort is that the United States, or at any rate its present government, is unconsciously encouraging the spread of communism through some of its foreign policies.

Be that as it may, there has been some lessening in harmony between the neighbors this year, but Ottawa as a whole has not been too greatly disturbed. Some deplore "sniping" at the United States, often making no distinction between bad-tempered outbursts and temperate yet frank criticism of policies which deeply affect this country. But the most prevalent attitude here seems to be that the



friendship between Canada and the U.S. is too solid to be easily dissolved.

Thus it was that when President Eisenhower came to Ottawa last month, the genuine pleasure aroused by his visit did not prevent critical comment on some of the things he had to say. Officialdom was naturally discreet, but such limitations did not extend to all of the press and radio.

One disappointment was caused by the President's assurance—indeed, insistence—that the St. Lawrence deep waterway would be a joint undertaking, as it was always planned to be until the Canadian government, despairing of action by Congress, formally notified Washington that it considered the 1941 agreement to be at an end.

All that seemed to stand in the way of all-Canadian navigation works was final disposal of the power issue. Robert Saunders, head of Ontario Hydro, said recently he was fairly hopeful that the court actions brought in the U.S. by the anti-seaway forces, would be disposed of by next June, when Ontario and New York could immediately go to work on the dams. Construction of the seaway itself could begin almost simultaneously.

But the President's statement has chilled the Canadian planners. They don't quite share his optimism that Congress will approve a new agreement at its next session.

On trade, too, his Ottawa speech was found less than satisfactory. Canadians hardly needed a reminder that "orderly economic evolution" is better than "hasty decisions." The trouble, as they see it, is that hasty decisions have been made or are threatened at Washington that could reverse the orderly economic evolution already in progress.

Yet how much could he say? The chief executive must reckon with Congress.

Many Canadians have long suspected that the elaborate American system of checks and balances is gradually breaking down. It is, of course, no part of their business to tell Americans what they think of that system, but they sometimes suffer from its results. One thing being remarked in Ottawa, however, is that more American visitors seem to be asking questions about our principle of cabinet responsibility.

# Give it the Jolts... keep getting the "VOLTS"



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# Do farmers use nickel?



"They sure do. There's a lot of nickel right out there in that tractor of Uncle Jim's. I'd hate to think what would happen in rocky ground if that tractor's gears weren't made of nickel alloy steel. Yes, there must be dozens of tractor parts which contain nickel to make them strong and tough."



"What about trucks, Dad?"

"Well, you can see the nickel plating on the bumper, grille and headlights of that truck. Nickel is even more important in its gears and other parts that have to be strong and stand a lot of hard wear. Even small percentages of nickel in steel make it strong and tough, and help prevent rust."



"The Romance of Nickel" a 72 page book fully illustrated, will be sent free on request to anyone interested.

## INCO Nickel



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All Canadian provinces, except Newfoundland, are represented in this Ottawa Conference photograph of the delegation representing the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. On the extreme left is Dr. H. H. Hannam, president and managing director, and on the extreme right, J. A. Marion, CFA, second vice-president, who is also president of L'Union Catholique des Cultivateurs, Quebec.

# WHAT ABOUT NEXT YEAR?

**T**HIS year, in Canada, our gross national product is expected to be about 5 per cent above 1952, and economists say that the most prominent feature of our economy this year has been the fairly even balance between supply and demand, accompanied by further expansion, without any renewal of inflation.

The non-agricultural segments of the Canadian economy have been prospering. Industrial production rose 10 per cent during the first half of the year, and Canadian labor income for the first seven months was 10 per cent higher than the year before. Average weekly salaries and wages increased from \$53.96 to \$57.58 for the year ending July 1. The incomes of unincorporated businesses and professions and the profits of corporations have been higher. Personal disposable income increased moderately. Capital expenditures were higher than last year—31 per cent in mining, 70 per cent in housing, 71 per cent in trade, 75 per cent in finance, insurance and real estate. During the first six months, merchandise exports from Canada totalled \$2,765 million.

In short, nearly everyone but the farmer has experienced the pleasant glow which accompanies general prosperity. Net income from farming this year will be down about 12 per cent from 1952. If we take the net farm income of 1949 as 100, this year's net farm income is estimated at 105. This compares with 119 last year, 133 in 1951 (the year of high beef cattle prices), and 88 in 1950. Any farm estimates made either in October or November, are bound to be somewhat inaccurate, but preliminary estimates anticipated a drop of nearly 15 per cent in total farm production this year, principally due to smaller western grain crops, but also to a somewhat lower income from livestock than a year ago.

**A**T any rate, this is something of the background which faced the 1953 annual Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference at Ottawa, held during the last week of November. The delegates, of course, were given a very great deal more detail than it is possible to include in a single article. They were told that prospects for 1954 in the economy generally, are that the fairly firm trend of economic activity which has lasted into the last quarter of this year will continue, and indicates that the firm and general demand for goods of all kinds, will not be seriously interrupted. Consumers are still buying at a high rate;

## Annual Agricultural Conference in Ottawa fears further squeeze in 1954

by H. S. FRY

continued government expenditures will be an important influence in the coming months; and private capital expenditure will remain high.

The prospects for wheat sales were considered reasonably good and a continuing firm demand can be anticipated for agricultural products in the domestic market. There might even be an increase in the volume of agricultural products absorbed. Cash farm receipts next year may even be higher than this year, though net farm income may well be down again.

The latter trend will probably continue because of smaller crops to be expected and, therefore, reduced farm inventories of grain at the end of next year. Some decrease in farm expenses is expected, also.

**I**N some respects, at least, it is not unfair to say that if the Conference had a theme, it would be "confusion and uncertainty." In part, this designation arises from the nature of the Conference itself and, in part, from the radically different circumstances in which the Canadian farmer finds himself after an eight-year period of adjustment from war-time to peacetime conditions.

As has been explained in reports of previous annual conferences, the delegates listen to a series of about ten carefully prepared reports on economic conditions and groups of commodities, and then spend the remainder of the time talking about anything they choose. This is likely to be the woes, tribulations, or achievements, of a speaker's province, or department, or of the producers of a commodity about which he is most concerned. Although the Conference is a production conference, the keynote of the majority of the speeches was marketing.

Agriculture is often among the last to feel an upsurge of prices at the beginning of good times, and is nearly always the first to experience a decline in prices. The radically changed circumstances surrounding agriculture at this period, as compared with other periods of declining prices, no doubt accounts for the more anxious note of protest that has accompanied the present price-cost squeeze in a period of generally high prosperity associated with high prices and high costs. Farm costs today are also cash costs to a much greater extent than ever existed before. This circumstance alone swells the sound of anxiety to unusual proportions. However, when it is combined with fear and uncertainty about export markets, the sound of "gimme, gimme, gimme," which could easily become characteristic of the welfare state, can quickly rise to a crescendo.

All too often, there is nothing more fruitless than unorganized talk. In theory, the Ottawa Conference gives the representatives from at least nine provinces an opportunity to exchange views and learn of each other's problems. It thus fortifies them for the more effective digestion of the material contained in the various reports. These individual reports, however, are seldom discussed by the delegates. For the most part, they use them, as it were, to lean against, while they change from one foot to the other during the course of overly long speeches. At any rate, there must be some sort of collective enjoyment involved for the delegates, because, like a woman who "enjoys" a good cry, they come back year after year for more of the same.

Well, the reports, at least, are organized. Some reports, of course, were more forthright and venturesome than others, but those committees who plunged purposefully into the murky waters of prediction, may at least have the satisfaction of the man of whom it was said that "he seen his duty and he done it." To pit the considered judgment (Please turn to page 44)



These are the provincial ministers of agriculture who were present at Ottawa: (Seated l. to r.): Hon. C. C. Baker, Prince Edward Island; Hon. A. W. MacKenzie, Nova Scotia; Hon. C. B. Sherwood, New Brunswick. (Standing): Hon. D. A. Ure, Alberta; Hon. R. D. Robertson, Manitoba; Hon. Kenneth Kiernan, British Columbia; Hon. I. C. Nolle, Saskatchewan.





*She listened for the child's cry, but all was silent.*

HELGA OLAFSON set down her waterpails and straightened her lithe young body for a moment's rest. Above her, on a promontory in the shelter of the pines, the fish camp, unhewn and ugly sent a thin thread of smoke into the illimitable blue of the crisp November morning.

She listened for a child's cry; but all was silent, so she did not hasten to climb the steep path.

Thor must be sleeping, she thought thankfully. Her unmittened hand fell carelessly down along the smooth bark of the birch beside her. Growing at the water's edge, its very roots had been washed by the lapping waves of the lake, and now were frozen into grotesque stalactites at its base. Helga's eyes wandered over its graceful loveliness to the frosted willows bowing to the swaying reeds at their feet; and on across the narrows to the sheer banks with their outcroppings of granite, still bare of snow between the straggling spruce and poplar.

The narrows itself was a bottleneck between two tremendous lake expansions that lay, far as the eye could see, to left and right in the first glare ice of freeze-up, and already the fishermen were setting nets. Helga had seen them go in the first faint glimmer of day, cautiously skirting the shore, testing as they ventured farther out upon the ice, still fragile in spots. And, fisherman's daughter though she was, she had held her breath in fear.

At the remembrance, she hastened to ascend the bank with her waterpails, and paused again to view the whole panorama from the elevated lookout of the point.

Now she could see the men, absorbed in the urgent business of "setting," for the season is short, and every fisherman knows that the first days bring the heaviest harvest of the waters. There they were, drawing a net under the ice, and a flash of relief animated Helga's young face at the sight of them. Wistfully, she swept a last look over the

# THE CURSE OF MANITOU WAPOW

by BERTHA DANIELSON JOHNSON

beauty of the morning, and reluctantly she entered the cabin.

John will do well this year, she mused. And we will build the little house we want, when fishing's done.

She knew John had located near the narrows by design, for she had been with him when he made the tests on open water. She recalled the monstrous fish. In the narrows, and far out on the vast expanse of the lake on either side, the nets had come up teeming, for here no native fisherman had dared to try his luck for twenty years.

Alfred, their Indian helper, had told them how it was.

"There's a tale the old Indians tell about the Weetigo," he said, laughing a little uncertainly. "This, they say, is Manitou Wapow, Devil's Narrows: by Indian legend, a cursed place."

Helga thought she had detected fear lurking in his eyes, in spite of his laughter, yet Alfred was certainly no coward. For him the wilderness held no terrors, for had he not killed a huge timber wolf on the trail, and dared the rapids of the swiftest river in his canoe?

John had chuckled at the Indian superstition, and scoffed away Helga's misgivings. But now she wished that she had not heard the legend of the narrows.

Two weeks of the season went by. It was now early December, yet the weather continued un-

Illustrated by Clarence Tilenius

*One bitter night, with the wind howling like a demon, churning and driving the ice floes out into the lake in the darkness, Helga came to know something of the forces of suffering and misery that lent power to the old Indian legend*

seasonably mild, the temperature often rising well above zero. And there was no indication of any change.

The ice still lay in a thin sheet of treachery in the bays and the narrows, with open stretches farther out where the current of the turbulent river continued its northward course. Nevertheless, the men went about their work, fearless of hazard and strong in the confidence of the wisdom of past experience. The catch had been far above average. Already, a fort of well-packed fish boxes were stacked at the lakeshore.

Helga looked on them with pride and high hopes, and even John's fevered ambitions soared. Seldom communicative, his secret soul lay hidden like a vein of mineral in a rugged ore body. Now, in his hour of triumphant expectations, he revealed for the first time to Helga his past frustrations and his future dreams.

"I wanted to study medicine, years ago," he confessed one morning, when he lingered over his last cup of coffee. "But there was no money. I was the eldest of seven, and had to take a man's place on the lake when father was drowned."

Helga remembered the fearful storm. She had been out with her father in the big barge. The demoniac waves had lashed their craft; the spray had drenched her father's oilers, and soaked her where she huddled in childish terror. When the storm was over, she had heard that John's father had perished. Now, as John told her of it, Helga's heart ached again for the little boy who had lost his father.

"Yes, I remember," she said simply, leaving her work to brush a sympathetic hand over his bristling red hair.

As she stood there beside John, Helga could see, through the one small eastern window of the cabin, the rose and saffron spell-binding splendor of the morning sky, rich in the promise of a new sunrise. The trees against it stood frosted and still, and upon the bay beyond the narrows,

Alfred Moose was already plodding toward the nets.

It was beautiful out there! God's handiwork! An ecstasy akin to pain filled Helga's being.

"Look, John," she said, "at Devil's Narrows. How could even superstitious Indians attribute evil to such natural splendor?"

John did not reply. He rose to go, but Thor's urgent and demanding cry halted him at the door, and he retraced his steps. For a moment, he lingered beside the crib, and a whimsical smile lit up his face.



"Now none of your thundering, little Thor," he said. "Daddy has to make a stake to send you to college."

His unwavering look caught Helga's for an instant. "Thor must have his chance," he said quietly, as he closed the cabin door behind him.

By mid-afternoon Helga became aware of an unusual stir and bustle of activity about the camp. Thor was sleeping, and all within the cabin was serene. She could hear the scuttle of squirrels on the roof. The moss embankment under the windows was alive with intense, (Please turn to page 28)



## Natural gas, sunlight, soil and water give Medicine Hat a profitable greenhouse and truck-garden industry

**E**VER watch a magician at work, pulling roses out of a silk hat, and then changing them before your eyes into dollar bills.

Something similar happens every day in Medicine Hat. The upturned topper in Alberta's southern prairies produces roses and carnations and chrysanthemums wholesale, for the florists of the West. It's a neat trick that turns into \$600,000 every year.

At that, it's only part of the story. Add the hothouse cucumbers and tomatoes, the bedding plants, the flourishing truck-garden business in the "hottest, driest city in Canada," and your total comes to 1.5 million dollars.

Take an abundance of natural gas, plus water, fertile soil, and those hours of sunlight, and what do you get? The obvious answer is "greenhouses."

Consider that Medicine Hat is a divisional point on the Canadian Pacific Railway, a trucking center on

And there lies the clue to Medicine Hat's success in this unlikely venture. "We get more sunshine than any other city in Canada," they claim, "and the longest frost-free period in western Canada." No one cares to argue the point, and every once in a while, the city likes to show off by raising cotton to maturity.

There are the other factors, of course. The light-brown alluvial soil is extremely fertile, if it gets the moisture, which it does by hose or irrigation. The river supplies it in abundance, which is fortunate, since the annual precipitation is less than 13 inches.

But the success of the greenhouse industry is based on The Hat's chief claim to fame—its natural gas. With instant heat from natural gas to produce steam throughout the plants, the cost is low and the heat reliable. Industry pays only five cents per 1,000 cubic feet of gas.



[Photos by Richard Harrington]

*Geraniums are favorite bedding plants. Here they are gathered from the greenhouse, to be taken from the pots, wrapped in newspaper and shipped.*

# They Magic Roses From The Hat

by LYN HARRINGTON

the Trans-Canada Highway, and has its own airport, and you realize that there is no difficulty in shipping out the product.

Customers were not lacking, either; and The Hat doesn't have to send out travelling salesmen to drum up business. They have a good product, and the customers know it. So the orders come in by mail. Equally valuable, the greenhouse and truck-garden industry has drawn a number of fruit and vegetable wholesalers to establish themselves in Medicine Hat.

The traveller never thinks of the dry southeast of Alberta as a potential Garden of Eden. It comes as a surprise, then, to learn that in The Hat and nearby Redcliff, 21 acres are in hothouses. It is the second largest area under glass in Canada, and because of its cut-flower industry, it is often nicknamed "the Brampton of the West."

Perhaps it's the sort of trick you might expect to have played on your senses in a land of mirage. You don't even see Medicine Hat until you are into it. Drive to town from any direction, and you cross the short-grass prairie, studded with cactus and sagebrush. It doesn't prepare your mind for a flourishing hothouse industry down in the coulee.

Look down into Medicine Hat from one of the surrounding hills. Spotted from one end of town to the other are glass houses, row upon row. The Hat is also a city of kitchen gardens. Practically every home has its plot of vegetables at the back door, and flower-bordered lawns in front. Truck-gardens spread out on both banks of the South Saskatchewan River, and at either end of town. Medicine Hat has established a reputation for its delicious corn, which comes to maturity weeks ahead of other places.

Add to that the fact that the snowfall is not heavy in winter (to cloud up the glass roofs) and you've got good growing weather every day of the year. Though glass is manufactured at Redcliff, it is not produced as panes. "We import panes from England or Belgium, or wherever we can get them," says R. M. (Bob) Morris, manager for Medicine Hat Greenhouses Ltd.

**T**HE greenhouse industry was begun early in the 1900's by a Mr. Uberin. "The Rosery," as he called his hothouse, was later sold to a limited company with numerous shareholders. This is now the Medicine Hat Greenhouses Ltd., and is the largest in the community. With nine acres under glass, it is second in the West only to Brown's of Vancouver.

George Rabb, of Riverside Greenhouses, has some 4½ acres, which is still a sizable amount of land to have glass-encased. Canadian Greenhouses

and Mills Greenhouses are another large pair, followed by many smaller concerns, some directly attached to the truck gardens. About 100 Hatters are permanently employed in the hothouse industry.

As largest and oldest, Medicine Hat Greenhouses Ltd., is rightly pioneering in the use of an aluminum greenhouse, brought prefabricated from England. Aside from the glass and the steam pipes (part of a 50-mile heating system) the house is entirely aluminum. It has worked successfully in England, but it remains to be seen how Alberta winters affect it. No one winter is a complete trial. Its obvious advantage is that it requires less framing than wood; therefore larger panes of glass can be used to permit more light.

As in any greenhouse anywhere, a constant battle must be waged against pests and bacteria. The offensive against mildew is carried on by painting steam pipes with sulphur, which

then turns to a vapor. Tetra-vapor is effective against the green-fly and others, while Parathion bombs go into action against red spider and thrips. But, as of old, water force is still one of the best weapons against bugs.

As a hothouse is cleared, the old stalks are junked, rather than composted, partly to avoid any risk of carrying over disease. "To be honest," says Emil Rabb, foreman, "I guess the main reason is because we just aren't familiar with the composting process. We just go out and get good prairie topsoil, and start in fresh each time."

**M**EDICINE HAT is the western center of the cut-flower industry. Its packaged blossoms and potted plants are shipped the year round to British Columbia and Ontario, and to every retail florist in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Chrysanthemums burst forth in all their glory from October on: 12,500 huge single flowers and over a million sprays of smaller 'mums are sent out each year.

(Please turn to page 42)



*Medicine Hat Greenhouses Ltd. covers nine acres of the coulee where the town of Medicine Hat is located. It is a remarkable industry for the prairies.*

# Millions

# From

# Peat Moss

**H**OW would you like to harvest a crop that sells for \$8,000 an acre? That's not hay. It's peat moss. But it is harvested. Also, like field crops, a successful harvest depends upon the weather. In Canada, over 6,000 acres still wait for peat farmers to harvest.

Right now, the largest operated peat bogs exist on the Fraser River Delta, along the lower Fraser River in British Columbia. Long centuries before diking held back the river, thick deposits of silt had washed ashore for centuries at Ladner, near New Westminster, and on Lulu Island. On the silt grew millions of tiny plants that died, grew again, and eventually became peat moss.

Peat moss has been marketed for 25 years, but estimates show that \$50 million worth still remains. At the present rate of development, peat moss companies figure the industry will last another 20 to 40 years. Only three to five feet of "sphagnum," the best grade of raw peat, comes off the bogs. But, some deposits go down 40 to 50 feet in depth. If enough by-products develop, these baby coal mines will never grow up.

Aside from horticultural uses, peat goes into germicidal litter, insulation, magnesium refining, fertilizer and fuel. If, and when, economical processes are perfected to develop more by-products, peat moss deposits will increase to ten times the present estimated value.

Eleven peat moss companies operate in British Columbia. They also hold developments in Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick and in other parts of Canada. Annually, more than a thousand railway cars of the finished product bring receipts exceeding \$3,000,000. Production has steadily increased since 1929, when only three companies operated. The second great war eliminated European competition and more outfits joined the golden peat business.

Before the value of peat moss became known, settlers on the Fraser River Delta burned it off their acreage. Fires lasted for weeks to clear the land: but when shallow bogs had burned off, leaving only cold clay, farmers realized their mistake. To warm and pulverize the clay, peat moss was needed. On sandy land, moss absorbs and holds moisture like a sponge.

**A**BILITY to absorb and hold moisture gives peat moss its value. Sphagnum comes from the bog surface. There, it is light yellow in color, and undecomposed. Deeper in the bog, the color gradually changes from dark brown to black.

To those who have handled rotted manure and other fertilizers, it may seem strange that undecomposed moss can help the land. However, raw-moss plant cells contain millions of tiny chambers that suck and hold moisture. Lower in the bog, the plant cells collapse and become useless. Eventually, if left long enough, the lower bog "horizons" or levels turn into coal, similar to that in the much-publicized Irish bogs.

In the Balkan states, Germany and other European countries, fuel bogs give up vivid tales of history. Not long ago, in a Balkan bog, the body of a man was found. Around his neck was a well-preserved rope. Clothing was intact and his stomach contained a partly digested meal. Yet, from old records, diggers learned that the man had been murdered and thrown into the bog more than 2,000 years before. The finding of the Balkan corpse in a semi-decomposed state proves the preserving qualities of peat moss.

On the Fraser River Delta, the Western Peat Moss Company discovered the same thing. One small peat bog told half a dozen stories of evolution. By examining particles from different bog levels, it was learned that a forest had once grown on top of a small lake. Moreover, samples from the forest level showed the type of trees that had grown there. One level gave up wood peat, another coal peat and still others, marsh grass and aquatic plants that, surprisingly enough, were in a natural state. Below it all, the bog tapered like a giant sugar bowl to reveal a tiny lake. Although no volcanoes exist on the Fraser River Delta, volcanic ash has been found.

**T**HIS all goes to show how peat moss absorbs and preserves. Vital soil moisture and dissolved mineral plant foods that would otherwise drain away, remain on the land. If the soil is stiff, and hard to work, moss softens and makes it lighter. On the other hand, if soil is sandy, peat moss adds body to prevent rapid drainage and erosion. As an organic material, peat moss fosters growth of beneficial soil bacteria and lasts for years. Many greenhouses now use the product to protect seeds and cuttings. And incidentally, peat moss is absolutely weed free.

Poultry peat moss litter absorbs moisture just as rapidly. When wind-dried and sun-cured, the natural moss cells remain active. In that state, they sponge moisture to 20 times their original weight. Peat moss litter comes free from dust, clean, fresh and germicidal. It actually absorbs odors. When its usefulness as litter has passed, not one particle need be wasted. Then, it is valuable as a fertilizer and soil conditioner.

Recently, the Western Peat Moss Company, largest of the bog operators, made a new product by cutting peat moss pads for a California market. The pads served to pack asparagus tips. During World War II, carloads of moss travelled by Great Northern Railway to Los Vegas, Nevada. There, it went into the refining of magnesium. Still another by-product has recently been developed by the Acme Peat Company. Close to their operations on Lulu Island, they obtained blue whale oil soluble, from a fish-packing plant. The soluble was combined with moss to create a rich plant fertilizer. Now, stores sell it in packages ranging from one to sixty pounds. The Western Peat Moss Company manager, who is also chairman of The Canadian

*The exploitation of peat bogs in British Columbia and other provinces has given rise to a special and highly useful type of business*

*by DON MEADE*

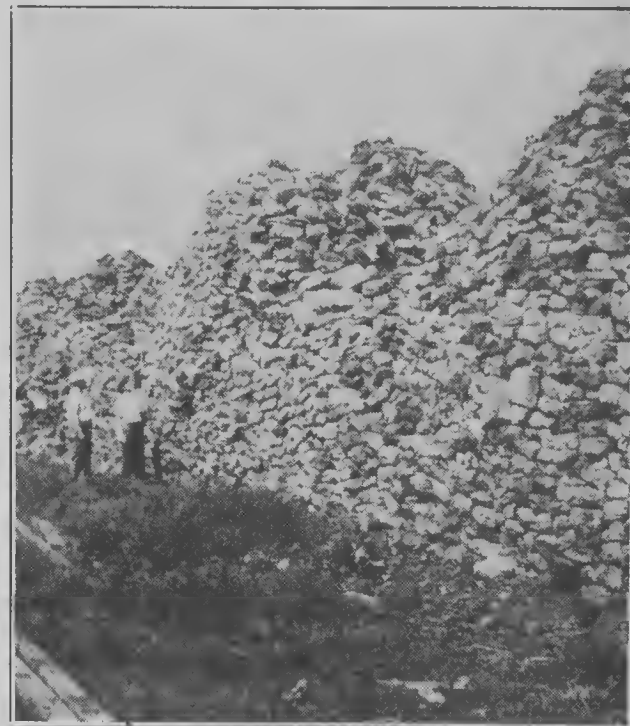
Peat Moss Producers Association, suggests that peat moss might be used in the manufacture of plastics. Among other components, analytical tests show the moss to contain a percentage of cellulose.

Drought-stricken farm lands get relief from a coating of peat moss fertilizer. In a product that combines the fertility and water-retaining qualities of peat moss, both clay and sandy land would produce record crops and never want for warmth.

**P**PEAT moss is probably the only product that is both mined and harvested. To estimate the quality of raw peat in a virgin bog, operators quite often use a 30-foot, sectional hand drill. They drill into the bog, removing sections of the drill core to test material. If enough raw peat is evident to insure profitable handling, trenches are dug 60 to 80 feet in width.

From October through May, the actual mining goes on. The diggers first remove a shallow scale of top silt. Next, razor-sharp spades cut the peat into blocks, measuring six by twelve by sixteen inches. When wet, these blocks weigh 30 pounds. They are stood on end to drain near the trench. In June, workers turn over the blocks, then stack them in chimney-like cubes to allow air passage. The hot July sun evaporates the balance of the moisture, and after three weeks more in the sun, the original 30-pound blocks weigh only four pounds.

Now the harvest begins. Portable, wire-mesh conveyors carry the blocks to a stock pile. Railroads transport the dry peat from stock pile to plant.



*Two-mile-long stack of peat in the process of drying down to a very light weight.*

Some stock piles extend two miles, while railroads often run 12 miles over spongy peat moss deposits. Unlike regular steel railroad gondolas, the cars on the peat bog are wooden slatted.

Western Peat Moss Company stock piles stay in the bog, under cover, for a full year. From this reserve, plant machines grind the material into five grades. Rougher moss goes into fuel, litter and insulation, while the finer grades make remaining products. After processing, balers compress the moss to one-fourth its original bulk, to make 100-pound bales. Also, filling machines bag up huge quantities.

Eighty per cent of Canada's sphagnum moss output goes to the United States. California and Washington use the product in dry areas. There, one can buy the product (Please turn to page 26)



# Thirty a Month—and Up



*The Saskatchewan stockman remembers the day that, jobless and broke, he jumped a freight. He had caught the wrong train, but it carried him to a job and to a later partnership in a 25,000-acre ranch*

[Guide photos]

**Top left: Picking up hay on the big flat, with J. A. Walmark on the tractor. Lower left: A few of the ranches' 4,500 ewes. Upper right: A shepherd watches his flock, and his dog awaits instructions. Lower right: A view of ranch headquarters with the house on left, corrals and barns at right and bunkhouse and water tower between.**

**T**WENTY-THREE years ago J. A. Walmark caught the wrong train. If he had caught the one he planned to take, he might now be a businessman in Vancouver, a fruit grower in the Okanagan Valley, or a dairy farmer in the Fraser Valley. The train that he took carried him to a job in which he weathered the dollarless, dusty, economic blizzards of the '30's; and which finally pitchforked him into joint operation of a 25,000-acre sheep ranch at Piapot, Saskatchewan.

This, in brief, is how it happened. Mr. Walmark was raised in the Kelliher district of Saskatchewan. By 1928, now grown, he worked his way up the old G.T.P. line to Watrous, and spent two years working around Watrous and Venn. Report has it that the schoolma'am in Amazon was a comely young lady. At least there must have been some good and sufficient reason why young Walmark used to head in that direction on Saturday nights, and why he picked the C.P.R.'s slow, weekly freight toward Regina, when he could have boarded the transcontinental at Watrous.

At any rate, he later waved good-bye forever to Amazon—and the school teacher—as the freight chugged out of town. Arriving in Moose Jaw he wandered through the yards, and then slipped aboard a freight train that was, he thought, en route to Calgary and Vancouver. Bitter disappointment awaited him. On Saturday the train rolled into Manyberries, Alberta, and put up for the week-end.

As Walmark walked the street that Saturday night, he ran into Peter Kirkvold, partner in a 4,500-ewe sheep ranch far south of town. Before the conversation ended, he had a job herding sheep, for which he was to be paid all of thirty dollars per month.

For the next two and a half years he and his dogs lived alone with successive bands of sheep. He cooked, ate, slept, and lived in a sheep herder's version of a Red River cart—a sort of modern trailer, without the plumbing.

He was a good shepherd, and at the end of two and a half years, he was moved to the ranch headquarters and given increased responsibilities. The ranch was owned in partnership by Kirkvold and a Mr. Albert Green. In 1936 Mr. Green offered Wal-

mark the foremanship of a 74,000-acre sheep ranch which he owned at Vauxhall. For supervising the care of 5,400 ewes, no less than \$90 a month was to be paid. Thus, in less than six years Walmark had tripled his income.

Fortune really smiled on him in 1937. Mr. Green had extensive interests and, in October of that year, he turned up at the ranch and offered Walmark a partnership. The \$1,500 cash available would be plenty, and he would take a note for the remainder

by **RALPH HEDLIN**

of the \$23,000 price. With the mix-up on freight trains seven years behind him, Walmark was a partner in a 5,400-ewe, 74,000-acre ranch! Would he have done as well in Vancouver?

Perhaps, but probably not. Even if he had made as much money, he would not have met the Manyberries girl who was now his wife, and shared with him his responsibilities and worries.

There were enough worries to go around. A community pasture was being established in the Vauxhall area, and range leases were not being renewed. Walmark and Green stood helpless until, by 1945, their range had shrunk to 10,000 acres. Finally, the partners sold their holdings at Vauxhall, and bought 25,000 acres of good range across the Saskatchewan line, at Piapot. To this new range they moved their sheep, to join the 1,100 sheep and 500 cattle acquired with the land. Today, the ranch, with Mr. Green as continuing, but absent partner, has 125 Angus cows and close to 3,000 breeding ewes. Management of the cattle is efficient, though not too unusual, but the care of the 3,000 ewes and their lambs has many points of interest.

**B**REEDING of the ewes is under way at the present time. The 48 rams are put in with the breeding herd in the last week of November and are in for a month. Twenty-four run with the band for three days, then they are taken out and the other 24 put in.

Lambing starts around the 25th of April, and for the next month, the ewes lamb at an average

rate of close to 100 a day. When the breeding flock is on pasture it is followed by a 16-pen lambing wagon, into which the ewes, with their new-born lambs, are loaded and hauled to the buildings. At night the flock is run into corrals, where the night men pick up the lambs as fast as they are born, and put them into small pens with their mothers. In the morning they see that all lambs have fed and are otherwise all right, after which the lambs and ewes are turned out.

Until the lambs are three days old, the herders never run more than 75 ewes together, but as the lambs get older, several bunches are run together until they have a flock of 600 to 700 head. All of this care is necessary because of a ewe's well-developed propensity for mislaying her lamb. She identifies her lamb by smell and in too large a group she will lose the little fellow. Also, for the first couple of days, a lamb cannot keep up with the drifting flock.

The flocks are held at 600 to 700 head until after docking. This takes place when the lambs are 10 to 12 days old, at which time the flock is run into a docking corral. Groups of about 100 are cut out and herded into a pen, the lambs are caught, docked, the ram lambs castrated, and the ears of ewe lambs clipped for age identification.

Two "lambing flocks" are thrown together to make a range band, which is formed when docking is completed: a shepherd then takes the band out on the range and stays with it. For the next few weeks the lambs gambol on the green hillsides and the older sheep eat and grow fat. The shepherd lives in a little range hut, and for weeks on end has no company except his band and his two or three well-trained sheep dogs.

In mid-June the shepherd delivers his flock at the ranch headquarters for clipping. A four-man custom-shearing crew from British Columbia have, of late years, been shearing the Walmark sheep. Each of the men will shear 150 sheep in a day. Every morning about 600 sheep are cut out and put into a roofed corral, so that if it rains during the day, the shearers can carry on.

For the actual shearing, a crew of men push sheep into the shearing (Please turn to page 27)

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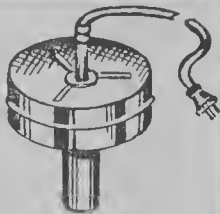
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## Father Martin's Christmas

*How an old French shoemaker learned the meaning of Christmas and its spirit of good cheer*

by C. A. MacINTOSH

IT was with a heavy heart that the old man sat whiling away the hours before Christmas. Business had been poor that year. The citizens of Marseilles were reluctant to undo their purse strings and wore their shoes a little while longer, thinking to save a few francs. The people loved the old shoemaker, though, and honored him, calling him affectionately, "Father Martin."

He was a devout man and found solace in daily reading from the Scriptures, his only incentive for feeling that better days were ahead. He started reading of the visit of the wise men to the infant Jesus, and of the gifts they brought. He murmured to himself:

"If tomorrow were the first Christmas, and if Jesus were to be born in Marseilles this night, I know what I would give Him!" He rose and took from a shelf two tiny shoes of softest snow-white leather, with bright silver buckles. "I would give Him these, my finest work. How very pleased His mother would be, I'm sure! But no, I'm a foolish old man," he smiled. "The Master has no need of my poor gifts."

The old man replaced the shoes, and blowing out the candle, wearily retired to his cot.

During the early hours of the morning he was disturbed by a voice calling his name.

"Martin! Martin!"

Intuitively he felt aware of the identity of the speaker. Could it be? Yes, yes!

"Martin, you have longed to see me. Tomorrow I shall pass by your window. If you see me and bid me enter, I shall be your guest and sit at your table."

THERE was no further sleep for Martin that night. Overcome with joy, he arose before it was yet dawn and swept and tidied up his little shop. His whole being was imbued with those words, "... bid me enter, I shall be your guest, and sit at your table." After spreading fresh sand upon the floor he wreathed green boughs of fir along the rafters. Over the fire he hung a pot of coffee, and on the spotless, linen-covered table he placed a pitcher of milk, a loaf of white bread and a jar of honey. "The best I have for my guest." Then, all in readiness, he took up his vigil at the window.

An hour passed and Martin saw a young boy, burdened down with a load of firewood. He paused wearily to rest in the shelter of Martin's doorway. The old man was moved to bid him enter and warm his body before the welcoming fire. The young lad did not await a second invitation, and heartily drank of the milk and ate the proffered bread and honey.

It was almost an hour later when the old shoemaker saw a young, miserably clothed woman, carrying a

baby, her steps faltering as she made her way along the ice-covered street. The heart of the old cobbler was touched and quickly he flung open the door. Come in and warm while you rest," he said to her. "You do not look well," he remarked.

"I am going to the hospital. I hope they will take me in, and my baby boy," she explained. "My husband is at sea, and I am ill. My baby is sick and hungry, and we have no money."

"Poor child!" cried the old man. "You must eat something while you are getting warm. No? Then let me give a cup of milk to the little one. Ah! what a bright, pretty little fellow he is! . . . Why, you have put no shoes on him!"

"I have no shoes for him," sighed the mother.

"Then he shall have this lovely pair I finished yesterday." And Martin took down from the shelf the soft little snow-white leather shoes he had looked at the evening before. ("I would give Him these, my finest work. How very pleased His mother would be, I'm sure!") He slipped them on the child's feet. They fitted perfectly. Shortly the poor young mother was on her way, tearful with gratitude.

MARTIN resumed his post at the window. Hour after hour went by. Many people passed his window and many needy souls shared the hospitality of the old cobbler. But now it was night. Many pots of coffee had been brewed. The milk was gone. The bread and honey were finished. The expected Guest had not appeared.

The old man's heart was heavier than ever before. "It was only a dream," he sighed. "I did believe. I did hope. But he has not come." With faith and hope and belief departed, it was a very discouraged, disheartened shoemaker that buried his face in his pillow.

"Martin! Martin!"

Suddenly, it seemed to his weary eyes that the room was flooded with a glorious light. And, to the cobbler's astonished vision, there appeared before him, the lad with the firewood, the sick mother, and her baby, and all the other people whom he had helped and cheered during the day. Each, in turn, smiled at him and said, "Have you not seen me? Did I not sit at your table? Was I not your guest?"—and vanished!

Then softly out of the silence he heard again the gentle voice, repeating his name, and the old familiar words: "Whosoever shall receive one such little child in My name, receiveth me. For I was an hungered and ye gave Me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave Me drink; I was a stranger and ye took Me in."

"Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

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# A Package Of Makin's

*This was long, long ago—too long for many farmers to remember it — but only thirty years at that*

by ISABEL MILLER

AT the front of my dad's store were two glass counters—"silent salesmen," he called them. One held the candy, and its sliding door moved back and forth easily, naturally. After all, every time a youngster had a penny to spend, the door was opened.

The other silent salesman had a door that opened stiffly. What's more, we were under strict orders that if we must open the door for something, we must close it at once, for that was the counter that held the tobacco and it must not be allowed to dry out. To still further prevent this dreadful happening, there was a glass dish filled with water and a sponge, which helped to keep the precious leaf just right. What a wonderful smell reached us when the door was opened—rich and molassesey!

What interesting things met our eyes on those rare occasions, such as "stock-taking," when we could look inside. There was snuff in little, round flat boxes. This, we found out, smelled rather nice, but seemed to cause sneezes.

There was cigarette tobacco, "makin's" everyone called it, in a little yellow sack with a drawstring around it at the top. I used to watch the customers roll a cigarette with the tobacco from the small bags. My eyes must have been adoring, I'm sure. How I wished I were as smart as they. The sack was opened and the tobacco poured carefully on the paper on the one hand. Then, the sack was taken with a flourish of the other hand up to the mouth. The teeth closed smartly on the string, gave a good smart zip and the bag was closed. With another flourish, back it went, into the hip pocket and the smoker could now start using his second hand to roll the "smoke."

The "chaw" tobacco came in a solid, blackish-brown block. It had a glorious smell of its own, and was about as solid and spicy as a real old-fashioned plum pudding. I was always at my dad's elbow when he used the lever-like knife to cut a plug of this off. I breathed deeply.

My dad did not smoke, and it seemed that there was often a queer expression on his face when he sold tobacco. "What does a fellow want to spend money on this sort of stuff for?" the look seemed to say.

The tobacco counter was kept well-stocked in the early years; and just after an order had arrived, it seemed full to bursting and we were scarcely able to shut the door.

Then, with disastrous suddenness, the drought and depression were upon us. The candy counter held only a few of the cheapest kinds of candy and only a little corner of the tobacco counter was filled. Gone were the expensive, perfumed cigarettes and all the other luxuries; and the door, still stiff, opened seldom. A package of "makin's" lasted a long time—but never quite long enough.

In place of dollars, the farmers

brought in nickels and pennies and counted them out with slow fingers. Sometimes there were not enough, and then the sugar and the flour would have to go "on the books."

It was a bad time. Bad for the farmers and bad for the storekeepers, too. There was a tremendous "lifting" power in the news that the government would do what could be done to ease the poverty and distress, and that relief would be given in the form of requisitions for groceries to be filled at the store.

But there were still some things that were not good. The requisition forms were fixed, exact things, made out by some expert; and they were far from right for all families. The salt allowance was much higher than most families needed. Some folks claimed there was too much sugar, and some that there was not enough. There were not supposed to be any substitutions, but the absurdity grew more and more apparent and storekeepers began, little by little, to quietly "juggle the books" so that the farmers could buy what they needed instead of what the expert thought they needed.

There was some risk in it, too, as there was a chance that the precious contract might be taken from the one storekeeper and given to another, even in another village, if the "double-dealings" were discovered.

Rumors began a-plenty over the regulations. It soon became a known fact that in my dad's store, substitutions could be made—but not tobacco. There was no bitterness over it, my old neighbors have told me since. After all, the need was for food, first for the women and the children, and the men. But how is a man going to buy a package of makin's, even if he is the chairman of the school board and the secretary of the wheat club in his own district, if he hasn't a thin dime in his pocket?

My father, always a quiet man, grew quieter still. There were days at a time when he said almost nothing around the house.

The orders came in and were filled—came in again and were filled again, each time with painful calculations to make them tally with the government list. Some customers were lost, of course, who traded down the line, where the merchant gave tobacco on the orders.

I never knew how my father brought about the change. I always imagine that, as he frowned with concentration over an order, he said quite casually, "There's a balance here, Jim" (or "Cap" or "Bill," whatever old friend was on the other side of the counter). "Want some tobacco?"

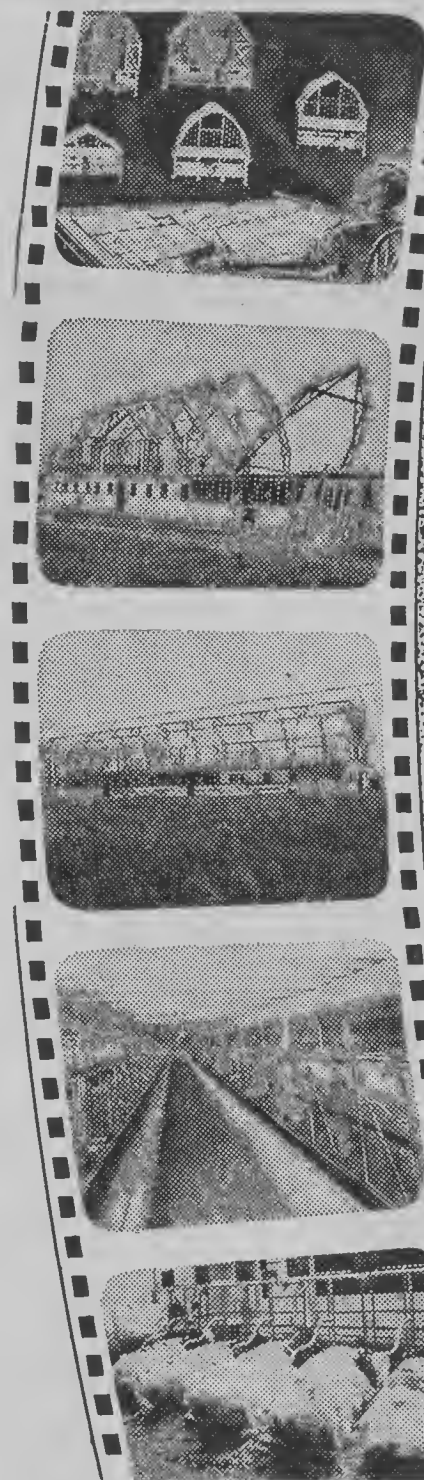
So the hands reached for the welcome package and the hip pocket felt snug again—and somehow things did not seem quite so bad.

Times are easier now and all this was long ago—but it doesn't hurt to remember, does it? V

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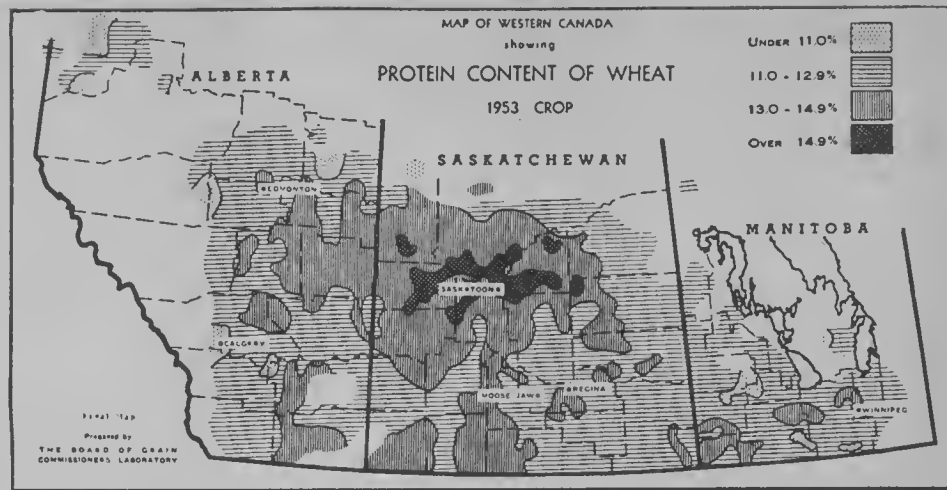
Frank R. Whitten, Chief  
South Portland (Maine) Police Dept.

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## When It's An Exide You START!

## NEWS OF AGRICULTURE



Protein content in Canadian hard red spring wheat this year ranges from 8.5 to 18.6 per cent, and averages 12.9 per cent from 6,711 samples.

## Wheat Protein Survey

THE annual protein survey of the hard red spring wheat of 1953 in western Canada, was based on 6,711 samples from 1,670 shipping points in the three prairie provinces. Average protein content is 12.9 per cent, which compares with 12.7 per cent in 1952, and a long-time average of 13.6 per cent.

The average by provinces is 12.1 per cent for Manitoba, which was 0.2 per cent below last year; 13.2 per cent for Saskatchewan, or 0.3 per cent higher than last year; and Alberta, 12.6 per cent, or 0.4 per cent higher than last year. Protein content this year ranged from 8.5 per cent to 18.6 per cent. Nearly 73 per cent of the samples graded 12 per cent or better, and less than 1.5 per cent graded under 10 per cent protein. The highest testing sample showed 18.6 per cent protein and was from Saskatchewan Crop District 3BN at Rush Lake, from which 250 samples ranged between 9.3 and 18.6 per cent, the latter sample grading 4 Northern.

The number of samples from individual shipping points varied from one to nine. Manitoba had no shipping point averaging 15 per cent protein or more. Alberta had two, Swallow and Amisk, each with five samples. In Saskatchewan there were 12 shipping points with 16 per cent protein or over (Anerley, Baljennie, Cavell, Ceepee, Cheviot, Landis, Leney, Osler, Reford, Tuberosa, Wilbert, Wolfe).

## Saskatchewan Co-op Business

A STATEMENT released by Dr. B. N. Arnason, Deputy Minister, Department of Co-operatives and Co-operative Development, reported that for the fiscal year 1952-53 co-operative organizations in Saskatchewan achieved a record value of business and services amounting to \$490,598,552. All but \$4,747,300 of this last total represents the value of commodities bought, sold or handled, or loans made.

This business represents the activities of 1,131 associations with a total membership of 524,385. Since many individuals belong to several associations, considerable duplication is represented by this total figure.

Fixed assets of associations increased to a sizeable \$35.5 million, this figure

representing an increase of 100 per cent in six years.

The paid-up capital of Saskatchewan co-operatives now amounts to more than \$23 million, and during the year reserves and undivided surplus rose from \$19.4 million to \$22.7 million. Members' equity increased from \$78 million to \$93.4 million.

Six inter-provincial co-operatives, which operate in Saskatchewan, had total sales or value of services rendered in the province, amounting to \$48 million.

## Rabies Quarantine Lifted

TOO late for our November issue the Canada Department of Agriculture announced that all quarantines imposed on account of rabies, which affected portions of the three prairie provinces, had been lifted.

Dr. T. Childs, Veterinary Director-General, emphasized the view that there can be no assurance that rabies will not again be spread southward by rabid predators. Dogs are the chief spreaders of the disease in populated areas. Dog owners were therefore advised to keep dogs under strict control and to beware of stray or ownerless dogs. The disease will probably persist among predatory wildlife in all northern areas of Canada.

## Record Yield Of Sunflowers

SOUTHERN Manitoba this year harvested an all-time record yield per acre of sunflowers, according to the Co-op Vegetable Oils Limited of Altona, Manitoba. The first 85 growers completing deliveries secured net average yields per acre of 925 pounds, which compares with the previous average high yield of 800 pounds in 1948.

The highest individual yield was secured by Ross Laycock, Carman, who secured 1,612 pounds net from a 20-acre field. Most fields, reports the Co-op, were yielding over 1,000 pounds, but the over-all average was reduced because a large area was badly damaged by wind and hail.

Sunflower rust, which for several years threatened the entire sunflower industry, has caused no damage to the crops of the last two years. A recommendation now is that this crop be grown only in a regular rotation program and not more than once in every four years.



## NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

Get It  
At a Glance

*Capsule reports of what is happening and said in agriculture in Canada and elsewhere*

Early in November, hog cholera was discovered on a farm in Essex County, Ontario. The 74 hogs involved were destroyed and the carcasses buried. An early announcement said that no hogs had been purchased recently, and sales, as far as could be traced, had been for immediate slaughter only. Infection was from garbage which was being fed. ✓

During the floods in northwestern Europe last winter, 348,000 acres of land were inundated by salt water in The Netherlands. It will cost an estimated \$15 million to recover the land, which is expected to be back in arable condition by 1957. ✓

A world-wide tax on postage stamps, for a week or two each year, to raise from \$3 million to \$4 million annually for the Technical Assistance Program of the United Nations, has been sponsored by a representative of Haiti to the Economic and Finance Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. ✓

Mexico has authorized insurance companies to invest up to 10 per cent of their capital and reserves in direct agricultural credits, as a means of helping to increase the production of corn, beans, and wheat. ✓

Australia has sold 2,000 tons of butter to Russia, at a better price than she could secure under the United Kingdom contract. ✓

World butter production increased by 12 per cent, and world cheese production by 9 per cent, during the second quarter of 1953, according to the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. ✓

The Swedish Agricultural Academy reports that farm output in that country has increased by 10 per cent since the end of the war, as a result of increased use of tractors, commercial fertilizers and oilseed crops. ✓

A California Holstein cow, Pansco Hazel, died recently on the 166th day of her 13th lactation, at the age of 18 years, 6 months, having produced in all, 281,193 pounds of milk in 4,919 milking days. Her milk averaged 3.8 per cent, and her fat production totalled 10,599.1 pounds. (A British Friesian cow, Manningford Faith Jan Graceful, is still milking and credited with 306,620 pounds of milk.) ✓

More than 27,000 cubic miles of water falls as rain on land areas each year, but according to a recent study by the Twentieth Century Fund, only 7,000 cubic miles of it consists of moisture evaporated over the oceans and blown inland. ✓

The market for farm products has grown in the last 150 years. In 1800 the world had only 36 cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants each. Recent counts indicate 57 cities at present that have from 500,000 to 1,000,000 inhabitants, and 40 cities with a million or more each. ✓

W. H. (Harold) Hicks, for 37 years superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Agassiz, British Columbia, retired recently. Born in 1888 at Lauder, Manitoba, and a graduate from the University of Manitoba, Mr. Hicks served for a time as assistant superintendent of the Lacombe, Alberta, Experimental Station. He is president of the Canadian Clydesdale Association and past-president of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association, as well as a charter and life member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada. His many friends will wish him well in his retirement. His successor has not yet been announced. ✓

Japan is developing a synthetic rice composed of various combinations of wheat flour, potato starch and natural rice in powdered form. The International Federation of Agricultural Producers reports that small-scale commercial production has begun, but the price is comparatively high. ✓

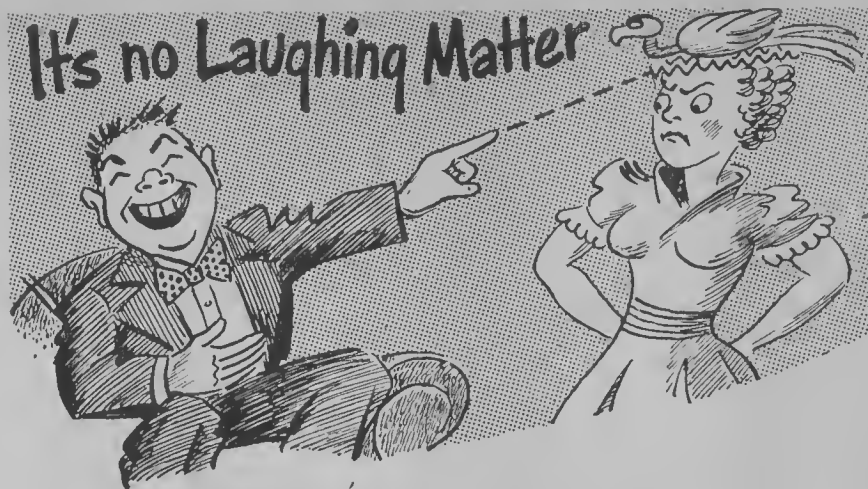
Friday, November 6, was pay day for 1,600 sugar beet growers in southern Alberta. They received an initial payment of \$3,950,000, or \$10 per ton on 395,000 tons harvested prior to October 21. A further payment on beets harvested after that date is scheduled to bring the total up to \$4,200,000. Average yield this year was expected to be 12 tons per acre on 34,683 acres. ✓

In a speech delivered in Montreal not long ago the Rt. Hon. James Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture for Canada, was reported as saying that out of a total Canadian annual production of primary products worth \$4.4 billion, \$2.6 billion worth comes from the farm. ✓

In Australia, for every 220 acres of country, there is only one man, woman or child, and only 2½ acres under crop. For this reason, Dr. Ivan Phipps, of Imperial Chemical Industries, believes the world need not fear about food supply. Within the next 50 years the world population might increase by a billion people. In Australia, too, pests and diseases of growing crops cause a loss of from 10 to 20 per cent of the total, on top of which is his estimate that less than 75 per cent of harvested crops reach the consumer. Similar conditions exist elsewhere. ✓

In South Australia it is an old custom in the lambing paddocks to use ordinary hurricane lanterns—about five to every 100 acres, as a protection from foxes. It is said to be a very successful precaution, although no one seems to know just why. ✓

The Rotterdam forward (futures) market in grain, was re-opened in September, after having been closed since 1940. This was the first futures market in grains to be re-opened in Europe, since the beginning of World War II. Corn was the first commodity admitted to the market, and it was hoped that barley would soon follow. ✓



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53-10

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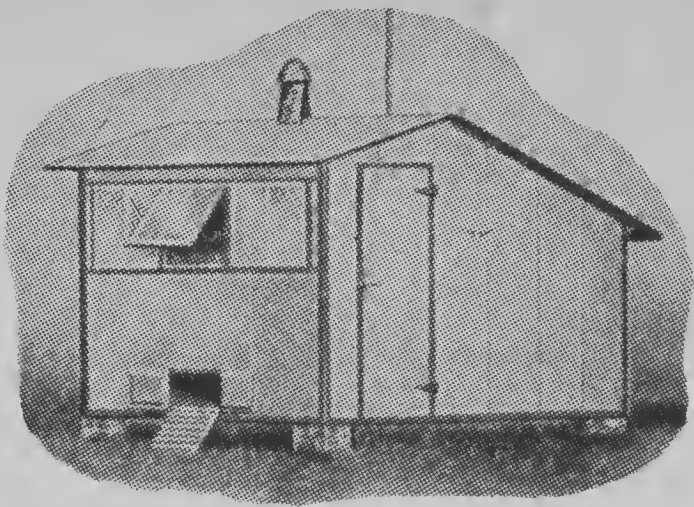
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Thickness  $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Size of Sheet 48" x 48", and 48" x 96". Bending radius on the length of an eight-foot sheet is 30". The bending radius is 36" on the width.

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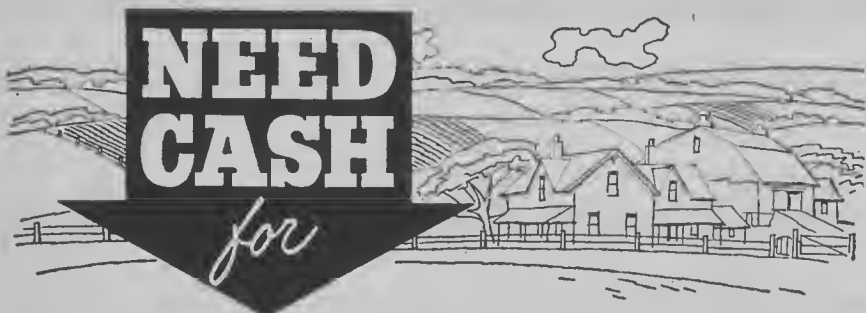
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MONTREAL - TORONTO - WINNIPEG - VANCOUVER

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63-29

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## LIVESTOCK



*A young bull can be reared much the same as a heifer, but should be kept separate from the heifers after he is six months old.*

## Care for The Herd Sire

*Though he is only one animal in the herd he influences every calf that is born*

**T**HOUGH the herd sire is only one animal in the herd, he is responsible for every calf born in it. If he is prepotent for heavy milk production, or high milk test, or for good body conformation, every calf born in the herd is likely to have these good characteristics. If he passes on to his calves the characteristics of poor udders, or low milk production, it can soon be disastrous. A poor cow will leave these characters in only one calf every year, but a poor bull will leave his stamp on every calf born. While only one calf is lost when a cow is out of condition and fails to conceive, the entire calf crop might be lost if the bull is not in breeding condition.

No animal in the herd deserves better treatment than the herd sire. Yet, how often is he purchased because he is a few dollars cheaper than another, better bull? How often is he shoved off into a dark stall in the back corner of the stable, or tied up in the end stanchion, to stand on a bare, cold concrete platform, with insufficient bedding, and virtually forgotten until a cow comes in heat?

A young bull can be reared much the same as a heifer, but the bull should be kept separate from the heifers after they are six months old. The Ontario Agricultural College says that it is preferable to keep each bull in a separate pen. He can be fed liberally on hay or grain, and in winter will make good use of a little silage. If he has access to an outdoor paddock, he will be healthier and will develop stronger legs and better-shaped feet.

At a year old, the bull is ready to have a ring in his nose, and a little stern handling at this time may make him more manageable during his lifetime.

Well-grown bulls are ready for light service when 12 months old, but heavy service at this age may turn them into slow, indifferent, or impotent breeders.

A bull in the average-sized dairy herd can be kept in good breeding

condition on the same type and mixture of feeds used for the cows. He may require less-succulent feeds, such as silage, to prevent him becoming too paunchy. Just a little grain may be sufficient, or as much as eight pounds per day, depending on the condition of the bull and the number of services.

Every bull deserves an exercise yard, and every stable should have a suitable box stall to permit safe handling. The bull's feet should be kept properly trimmed; he should never be handled with a weak staff, or a frail lead rope; and he should be handled carefully, gently, and never trusted. V

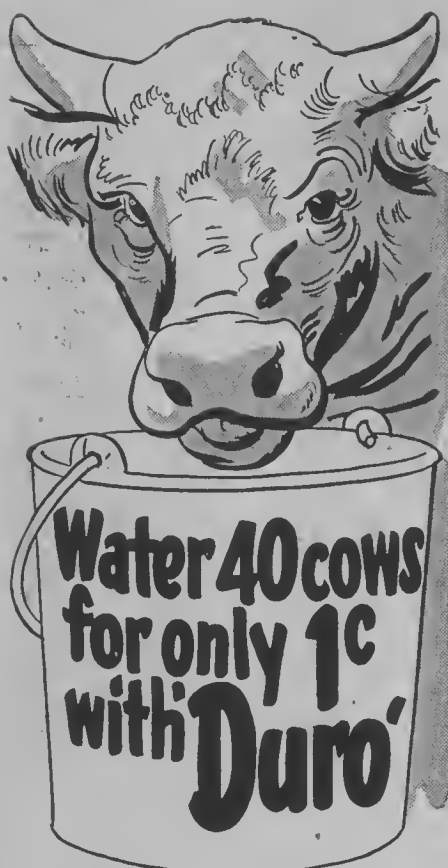
## Treat for Lice Now

**E**VERY day that lice are allowed to remain on cattle, they drain away more blood from the animals, and mean wasted feed and wasted dollars. Winter treatment for lice is necessarily confined to dusting, unless the livestock can be housed while wet. Warble powder, says Thomas Kilduff, research extension officer, Alberta Department of Agriculture, is the preferred treatment. Five per cent DDT dust may be used, but only on beef stock not for immediate slaughter. Dusting must be thorough. Hard-to-get-at places such as the brisket, escutcheon, the inner flanks, around the cod or udder, and the ears, are all favorite spots for lice, and these must be treated to complete the job. V

## Shelter, Not Heat For Sheep

**C**OLD does not harm sheep, as long as they have adequate feed, and shelter from storms, says the Shepherd's Calendar, a pamphlet prepared by the Canada Department of Agriculture. It recommends that sheep should have access to an exercise yard in winter, except during storms, or at night if there is a menace from wild





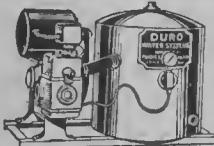
Running water on your farm can step up milk production by as much as 25%! And now the Duro Pumping System makes this possible at low cost: Duro pumps 1,000 gallons of water (enough for the average daily consumption of 40 cows) for just 1¢. And more productive farming is only part of what you'll gain with a Duro. Consider these additional improvements made possible by a Duro Pumping System:

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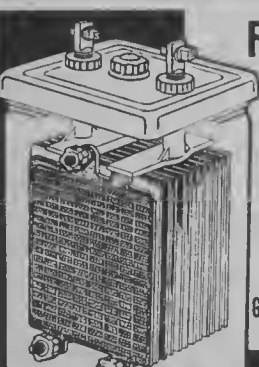
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#### LIVESTOCK

animals. Better quality hay is preferable for the bred ewes, but the poorer hay can go to the rams and the lambs. Above all, it adds, save the best legume hay for the pregnant and nursing ewes in February, March and April.

If hay for winter feeding is of poor quality, a half-pound per day of a half-oats and half-barley mixture can be given to the bred ewes. All sheep should have access to a salt and mineral mix. Equal parts of feeding bonemeal and iodized meal is said to be adequate in most areas. If the flock is in a district where mineral deficiencies are known to exist, the required minerals should be added to the mixture.

Then, says the Calendar, good grass or corn silage, free from frozen or moldy lumps, can be fed at the rate of three pounds per head per day. ✓

#### Winter May Mean Ringworm

THE short, cold days of winter, when cattle see little or no direct sunlight for a stretch of several months, is the time ringworm attacks them. The symptoms appear as round, scaly, greyish crusts with hairs protruding. Appearing usually around the eyes and neck, these crusts are roundish in shape and are mildly itchy. It is usually young cattle that are affected, especially those crowded together in dark stables.

Treatment can be successful if the time is taken to do a thorough job. A good plan, points out the range experiment station at Manyberries, is to apply Vaseline to the crust of the scab, scrape it the next day, and paint with tincture of iodine daily afterwards. The following remedies are also helpful: sulphur ointment, nitrate of mercury ointment, or iodide ointment, applied once a day.

To prevent further infection, diseased animals should be isolated, all contaminated litter burned and the premises thoroughly disinfected. Don't forget to scrub hands thoroughly with hot water and soap after working with the disease, for it can spread to humans. ✓

#### Remove Black Fibres

BLACK-FIBRED wool is becoming a serious threat to the wool industry, says S. B. Slen, wool specialist at the Lethbridge Experimental Station. Mr. Slen points out that although shepherds rightly expect top prices for the fleeces they have to sell, some mills have drastically reduced, or even eliminated, the use of Canadian wools in certain lines of goods. Black fibres—which will not take a dye—prevent the fabric being dyed in the light or pastel colors popular today, and thus are causing the trouble. Breeding animals that do not have black fibres in their fleeces must be used in flocks to help eliminate the problem fleeces.

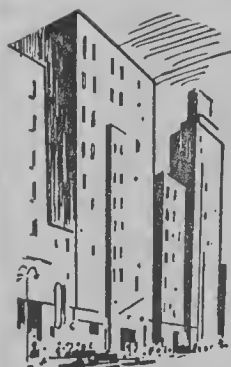
Black leg and face clippings can be removed from the fleece at shearing time, but there is no way to remove the fibres from the body of the fleece. ✓

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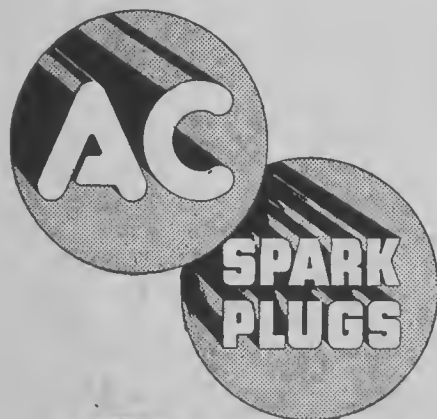
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**FIELD**

One or two windy days lifted valuable topsoil and piled it on the headland of this Treherue, Manitoba, field. It may take years to restore the lost fertility.

## Eroded Soils Give Low Yields

*Soils damaged by drifting in the thirties are still only up to 50 per cent production*

THE full extent of the damage done to crop land by wind erosion is often not realized by the owner of the drifting field. In 1952 and 1953, the Experimental Station, Lethbridge, Alberta, took yields from wheat fields in that area that had been damaged by wind in the '30's. Crop yields on knolls and other areas where the topsoil had blown away were compared with areas of non-eroded soil.

The average yield of wheat on the non-eroded soil was 30.2 bushels per acre; on the eroded soil it was 12.8 bushels per acre.

These differences would not be as great in drier years. In moist years, such as the two on which the tests were taken, differences are greater, because moisture is not the main limit-

of the presence of organic matter and humus in the topsoil, plant elements are more available, and the soil structure is better.

Elements required by the plants can be added to the topsoil at a moderate cost, with chemical fertilizers, but it is a different story when it comes to making topsoil by the addition of organic matter and humus. Chemical soil conditioners are being manufactured as a substitute for organic matter and humus to improve soil structure, but, as these cost from \$1,000 to \$2,000 an acre to apply, their usefulness is limited.

Until suitable materials that are much more inexpensive are available, plant and animal residues will continue to be the only practical soil builders available.

There is no quick, inexpensive way to build up the original prairie topsoil. It took many years for it to be built up by decaying prairie vegetation (chiefly grass). The best practice is to follow recommended erosion control measures to keep the topsoil on the fields, so that bumper crops can be produced in years of abundant moisture, and the best possible crops can be produced every year.



A little rivulet, such as the one above, may move very little soil, but enough of them will soon ruin a fertile field.

ing factor, and soil fertility and structure assume greater importance.

With the exception of nitrogen, there is very little difference between subsoil and topsoil in the amount of essential plant elements, but because

## Cost of Fertilizer Application

CAREFUL calculation of the cost of purchasing and applying fertilizer, indicates that in most parts of Manitoba it is a sound investment. In 30 field-scale fertilizer trials on Manitoba illustration stations, only two failed to give an increased yield sufficient to cover the cost of the fertilizer.

The life of a fertilizer attachment is considered to be ten years. Allotting the annual cost of depreciation to 100 acres of land fertilized, the cost for the equipment works out at 18 cents an acre. This is calculated to take care of the total initial cost over a period of ten years, plus annual interest on half the original value at five per cent, and

repairs for the ten-year period at ten per cent of the original cost of the attachment. In the spring of 1953 this totalled \$4.80 per run for a 24-run standard drill.

Ammonium phosphate (11-48-0) cost \$115 a ton last spring. A 40-pound-per-acre application cost \$2.30, which, with the attachment cost added, totalled \$2.48 per acre.

With the initial price of No. 3 wheat close to \$1.20 a bushel, a yield increase of slightly over two bushels per acre, of even this grade, paid for the fertilizer. Yield increases of more than this amount, and on most tests there was a larger increase, added to the profits of the farms that fertilized.

A recent report from the Experimental Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta, says that exhaustive tests through the Peace River country on several different soil types gave wheat yield increases of from three to ten bushels per acre, when the fertilizer application was at the rate of 25 pounds per acre of 11-48-0 on fallow or crop land covered with light to medium stubble. This in most instances, represented a substantial return over costs. Where heavy straw or stubble was encountered rates of 50 to 60 pounds of 16-20-0 fertilizer were required to give a similar yield increase.

## Growing Crops on Alkali Soils

THE control of alkalinity—more correctly called "salinity"—in soils, is largely a water control problem. A saline soil contains an excess of water-soluble salts, principally magnesium and sodium sulphates. These salts are easily transported through the soil by water.

If the movement of soil water is in a downward direction the salts are leached from the topsoil zone, but in soils where the moisture is moving laterally or upwards, the salts concentrate near the surface and interfere with crop growth.

Drainage systems can be installed to control the collection of ground water, but this is prohibitively expensive. A more practical method is to prevent surface run-off from higher ground, and to utilize moisture that does collect on lower spots.

Run-off is widely controlled through the use of trash cover and other techniques, but moisture is often allowed to lie on low spots in black fields where it evaporates and permits the accumulation of salts. If a crop is growing on these spots during wet periods surface evaporation is reduced, excess water is removed from the lower soil zones, and alkali does not accumulate at the soil surface. In some cases, growing oats and millet for annual hay will accomplish this, and in others it is necessary to seed the low spots to deep rooted plants, such as alfalfa and sweet clover.

It is pointed out by the Experimental Farm, Brandon, Manitoba, that commercial fertilizer, drilled in with the seed, or barnyard manure worked into the soil, tend to stimulate plant growth on saline patches. Their use is strongly recommended when soil salinity makes the production of cereal crops difficult.



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## POULTRY



The laying flock has no fear of six-year-old Neil Brandstrom.

## Poultry Pay Their Way

*A flock of 700 hens, some cockerels and a few capons make up the entire farm enterprise of the Brandstroms at Eriksdale, Man.*

**D**O poultry pay their way on a farm? Some farmers with a few dozen hens running the yard among the turkeys and geese, or with 50 or 100 hens crowded into a dark and drafty pen, might wonder if it pays to raise them.

Yet Mr. and Mrs. Arne Brandstrom, at Eriksdale, Manitoba, are making their living with poultry alone. Their bills are paid with the income from a flock of 700 hens, some R.O.P. cockerels, and some well-fattened capons.

A few years ago when Mr. Brandstrom's health forced him to look for something less strenuous than mixed farming, he and his wife began to look seriously at poultry as a specialized enterprise. As a girl, Mrs. Brandstrom had worked for Mrs. Mae Allen on her well-known poultry farm near Eriksdale. Her interest in poultry continued after she was married, and some of the popular bloodlines from the Allen flock of Barred Rocks were brought to the Brandstrom farm. When they decided that poultry offered the best opportunities to continue farming, Mr. and Mrs. Brandstrom threw themselves in earnest into developing their flock.

It was entered in the Record of Performance tests supervised by the Production Service, Canada Department of Agriculture. Mr. Brandstrom, in his quiet determined way, carried through the drudgery of daily trap-nesting. He spent patient hours with the 200 or more birds that were being trap-nested, or the other 500 birds in other pens. He spent more hours studying the records that accumulated, all for the ultimate purpose of selecting poultry families which would again go into the breeding pens and produce a new generation of even better individuals.

Then in 1953, after only six years in R.O.P. work, successes cascaded down upon them. Their flock won three of the four trophies offered for competition among Manitoba's R.O.P. flocks. The gleaming silver cups sat proudly in the Brandstrom living-room during

the past summer, proclaiming these successes. The Laing trophy was for the female entry with the highest record in the certified group. The Shamrock Elevator trophy signified the male with the most daughters qualified under R.O.P., while the Watkins Memorial trophy was evidence that their entry had the highest percentage of birds qualifying during the year. Finally, as a result of the wins, their birds were selected as the foundation stock for a new group-testing plan under the R.O.P. policy, which was put into operation in the province this year.

What of the future? The Brandstroms are planning to build a new poultry house to enable them to enlarge the flock. At the same time, they are sparing no effort in developing, among their children and other children in the community, greater interest in poultry. To assist in this, Mrs. Brandstrom has taken over the leadership of the Eriksdale 4-H Poultry Club, and carried its first year's program through to a happy conclusion. Her two daughters, Carolyn and Beverley, have been two of its most devoted members.

The Brandstroms have proved beyond any doubt, that poultry can pay.

## Small Flocks Pay

**T**HERE is an important place for the small farm poultry flock, says the University of Wisconsin, as long as the flock is given a little care. A survey of over 300 farm flocks showed that they can return some money over feed costs. Over 130 of the flocks were made up of less than 100 hens, and these returned a small profit over feed costs. It was discovered that flocks producing an average of only 58 eggs per hen showed practically no profit, while those producing up to 195 eggs per hen, finished with a profit of \$400.

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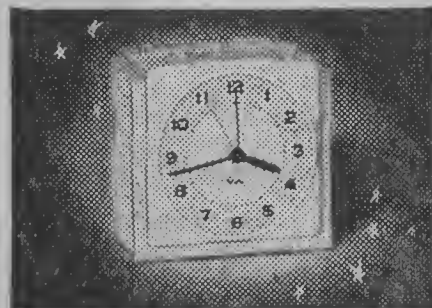
## take your pick



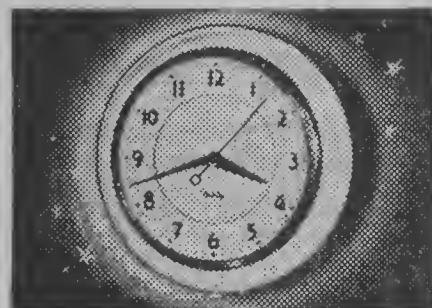
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## HORTICULTURE



*This tree in the orchard at the University of Alberta was a victim of fireblight, control of which may shortly be possible.*

## Control of Fireblight In Sight

**FIREBLIGHT**, also known as pear blight, is perhaps the one fruit-tree disease which has been more destructive than all others on this continent, during the past hundred years. It has practically eliminated commercial pear growing in many otherwise suitable areas. Among apples there are at least 1,800 existing varieties on the continent, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture lists only 24 apple varieties in commercial production in that country; and fireblight is at least partly responsible for the fact that the list is so small.

Some years ago it made its first dangerous appearance in the prairie provinces, although it has been known as a dreaded tree disease in the commercial apple and pear areas of other parts of Canada, for at least half a century.

Up to this time there has been no cure in sight, nor has there been any economical preventive. The only thing that could be done was to cut off the twigs and branches as soon as possible after the appearance of the disease, and to cut them eight to ten inches back of any evident infection. It is a bacterial disease caused by an organism known as *Erwinia amylovora*.

During the last decade, since the first appearance of antibiotics (penicillin, aureomycin, terramycin and streptomycin) of which there are now a very large number, increased uses have been found for this type of organism. They have been found very useful in livestock feeding, and now they promise to bring under control this most rapid killer of fruit trees. At several U.S. experimental stations during the past year or more, in California, Missouri, Ohio and in U.S.D.A. research stations, both terramycin and streptomycin have been used to practically eliminate danger of either blossom blight or twig blight, both of which are early manifestations of fireblight.

At the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, streptomycin was found

*Work with antibiotics promises control of this serious fruit disease*

somewhat more effective than terramycin in experimental work with fireblight control, but at the University of Missouri, combinations of both antibiotics appeared to be most effective and, as a result, the combination found most successful will be put on the market as a special compound under the name agrimycin, by Charles Pfizer and Co., Inc., who are the discoverers of terramycin and also the largest manufacturers of antibiotics in the world. The company will make available enough agrimycin during 1954 so that at least 100,000 trees can be treated under test conditions commercially. By the winter of 1954-55 information should be available which will more or less finally indicate the likelihood of effective control in the future, of this fruit-tree scourge. V

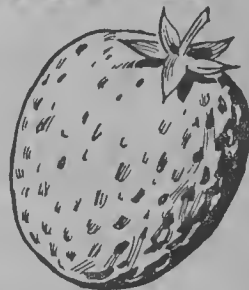
## Planting Evergreens

**JOHN WALKER**, superintendent of the Forest Nursery Station at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, has issued a reminder to prospective treeplanters that evergreen trees are more selective than broad-leaved trees, as to the condition of soil and competition with other plants, under which they will do best. Under no circumstances can evergreens survive, or develop well, if they are handled roughly or exposed to winds, weeds, or neglect.

Evergreens can be expected to do well, of course, in locations where some tree growth is already established and does well. If we want to plant trees, and especially evergreens, where tree growth is not already established, it is highly advisable to provide conditions as nearly satisfactory as can be, by planting them in clean, well-cultivated and fertile soil, in which the moisture has been conserved as well as possible.

Growth of an individual tree will be heavily influenced by its environment. V

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# Victor TRAPS





Club leader Fred Boulton (right) looks on as members prepare their exhibit.

## Alberta's First Sheep Club

*Club work in the district is showing the way to greater profits from farm flocks*

ALBERTA'S first 4-H Sheep Club sprang up in the district around Abee, 60 miles north of Edmonton, where recently established flocks are grazing newly cleared land. The club has already taken the lead in teaching district sheepmen how to look after these new flocks. As club leader Fred Boulton said last winter: "Why not have a sheep school in conjunction with a 4-H sheep club meeting? Both farmers and club members want to learn more about the business."

The school was held last spring, and club members were right in the front row. An experienced shepherd was hired for the school, and they watched him shear a ewe, then tried their hands at it themselves. They learned how to dock and castrate lambs; watched the sheep sprayed for ticks and drenched for worms; and quizzed the sheep specialists from the Alberta Department of Agriculture, and the Canada Department of Agriculture as to the characteristics of good breeding animals.

The Country Guide visited this active club during one of its regular meetings last summer. Members were preparing an exhibit for their achievement day, and for the Edmonton exhibition, to demonstrate the advantages of woollen fabrics. Club secretary Mary Hissett and other art-minded members were painting the display. Others were arranging the carefully carved letters, and sticking them in place. The display was rapidly coming to life as another exhibit to tell people more about sheep.

Every member of the club had lambs of his or her own, to raise and show on achievement day. The club planned to get a government ram, so that all the lambs would be sired by the same animal. Nearly every member was from a farm where the size of the flock will be increased in the next few years.

Enthusiasm for sheep is running high in the district; and while flocks vary in size from only a couple of ewes to as many as 125, most are between

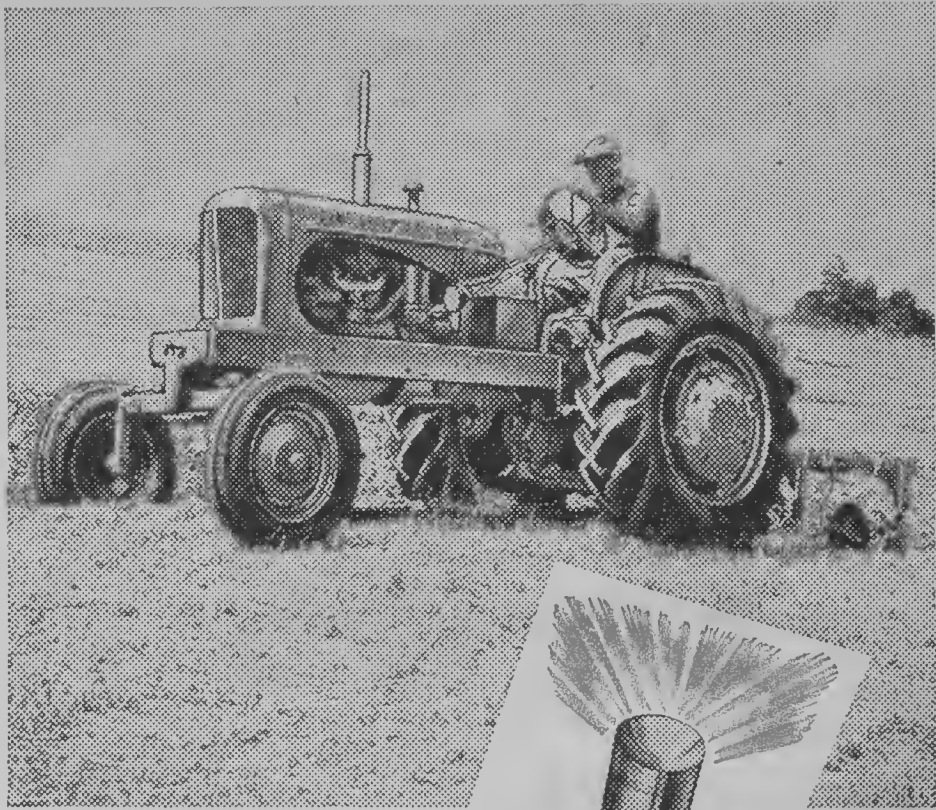
5 and 15 ewes. The people there are finding that in spite of the coyotes and ticks and worms and dogs that can bother sheep, there is money to be made from a farm flock. V

### Boosting 4-H Spirits

WHEN District Board No. 17 in Saskatchewan appointed a 4-H Club Council to help bolster the sagging interest in club work, it didn't realize how successful it would be. Made up of club leaders and members of the agricultural board, the council's first goal was to organize a district grain club achievement day. This would create more competition and interest: it would mean that every club member, instead of meeting only members of his or her own club, would compete with club members from all over the district. When 65 contestants came out to the achievement day and made it one of the biggest events the club had seen, interest began to mount.

When over 100 people turned out for the first district bonspiel for club members last winter, it became apparent that club work was catching on. This burst of activity convinced everyone that 4-H club work meant fun and activity, and maybe something useful, too, like the old-time gatherings when community spirit was more closely knit than today. As if the community people had agreed that this club work filled a beckoning need, they began to take part in it.

A new grain club was formed, then another tractor club, and in the short six months from January to June this year, 13 new clubs sprang up. The district boasted a total of 13 grain clubs, four tractor clubs, two home-craft clubs and one beef club. District achievement days meant a virtual picnic, with everyone taking part. Good-natured rivalries began to develop and the club movement took on a healthy aspect it had never before shown in this district around Kindersley. V



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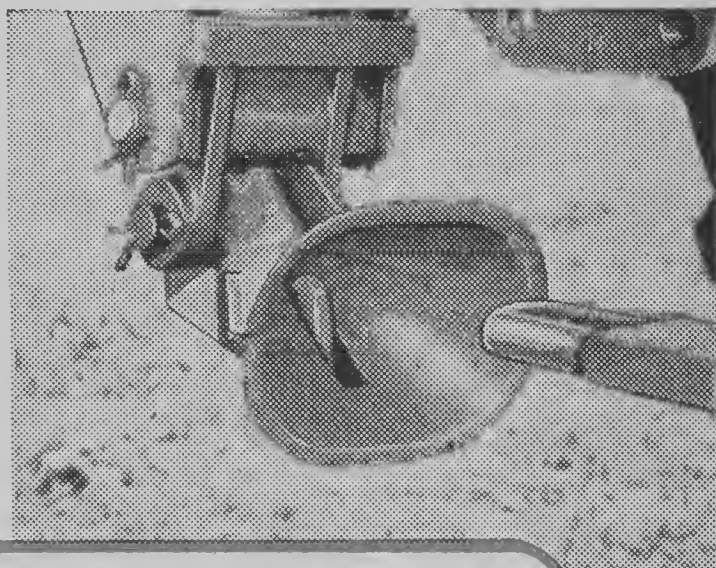
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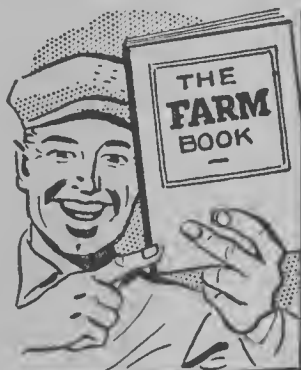
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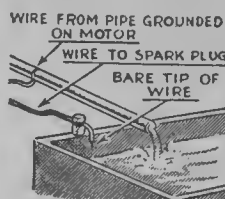
Prov.....

## WORKSHOP

# Handy Ways and Better Methods

*As the weather grows colder the workshop becomes more of a center of operations*

**Engine Shut-off.** I have rigged up a simple arrangement that shuts off the pump engine and prevents the trough from flooding. I connected a



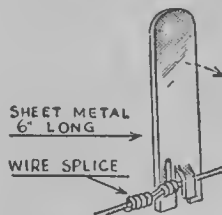
wire from the metal part of the engine to the water pipe between the pump and the trough. I connected an insulated wire to the spark plug terminal, and ran it to a porcelain insulator fastened to the water trough. I bared the end of the wire and bent it so that the bare end touches the water when it rises to the desired level. This shorts the spark plug and stops the engine when the trough is full.—J.E.H.

**Belt Improvement.** The belts in the family can get scruffy before they are worn out. To renew them



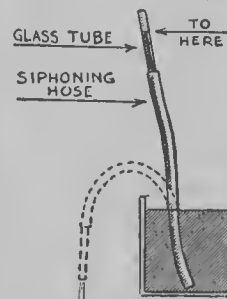
rub shoe polish of the correct color well into the leather, polish, and then rub in a good wax. The belts will look nice for a long time.—E.I.J.

**Smooth Wire Splices.** A tool that will splice wire smoothly and quickly



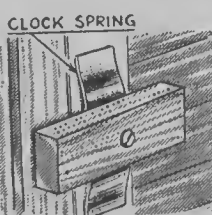
can be made from a one-inch strip of heavy sheet metal about six inches long. Two cuts are made into the end of the metal, to a depth of an inch or so, after which the prong is pried up and bent, as shown. In use, join the two ends of the wire at right angles and wrap each end spirally around the other.—H.E.F.

**A Better Siphon.** One of the objectionable parts of starting a siphon is the gas or other fluid you draw into your mouth. By using a rubber hose with a glass tube in the end I can see the fluid as it starts to



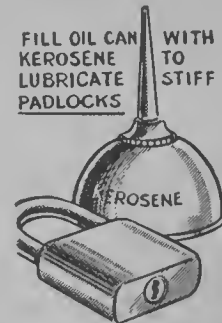
come up. If you pinch the tube with your fingers to prevent the liquid flowing back you can start the siphon working first try.—W.F.S.

**Tighter Door Latch.** Door latches



will loosen. To correct this drill a hole through a short length of clock spring, bow the spring and fasten it under the latch as shown. The pressure of the spring will hold the latch in position.—H.E.F.

**Lock Lubrication.** To prevent trouble with my padlocks freezing and sticking, I keep an oil can filled with

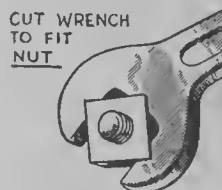


kerosene handy, and when they start to bind or stick I squirt in a few drops of kerosene and work them back and forth a few times until they work freely. The same treatment is effective for car doors.—I.W.D.

**Tightening Washer.** When a wing nut has to be tightened and loosened often a lot of the strain on your fingers can be eliminated by using a bent washer under the nut. The washer will keep the nut tight, while the smaller washer area will reduce friction, and the wing nut will turn more readily.—A.B., Sask.



**A Tight Corner Wrench.** You sometimes find you



have to turn a nut in a place where the wrench can be turned less than a quarter turn. For such corners a wrench, notched as shown in the illustration, will be found very useful.—H.E.F.

**Winterize Car Doors.** A little cup grease rubbed along the meeting strips at the bottom of car doors will stop them freezing shut, and a little denatured alcohol along the tops of windows will stop them from freezing. If your door lock freezes, hold a lighted match under the key until it becomes as hot as you can hold, and insert it quickly. It may thaw the lock.



To prevent it from freezing again, dip the key into denatured alcohol several times and insert it, then work in some very light oil.—I.W.D.

**Handle Protector.** When trimming up trees I find that if I miss my stroke I will often damage the axe handle. To save handles I take a piece of



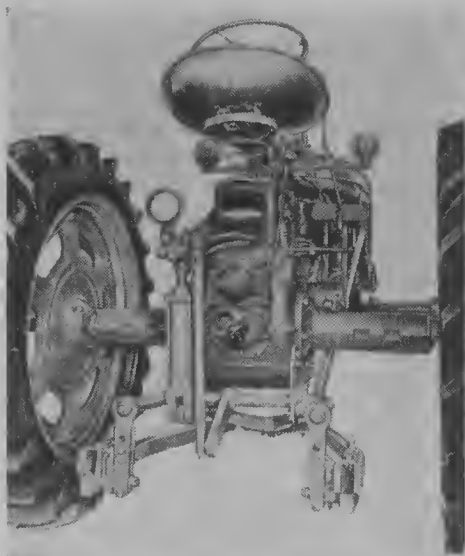
car or tractor radiator hose four inches long, heat it to make it pliable and force it over the handle. If it is too loose put a few layers of friction tape around the handle and force the hose over it. It will reduce the chipping of the handle.—H.I.W.



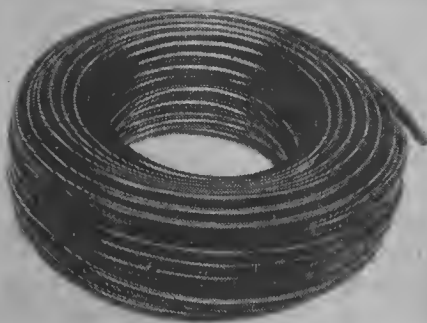
## WHAT'S NEW



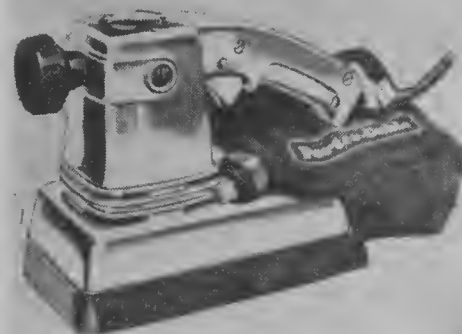
This new eighteen and one-half-inch-wide portable elevator available in lengths of from 26 to 50 feet, is said to handle all crops including 16 by 18-inch bales lying flat. (John Deere Co., Winnipeg.)



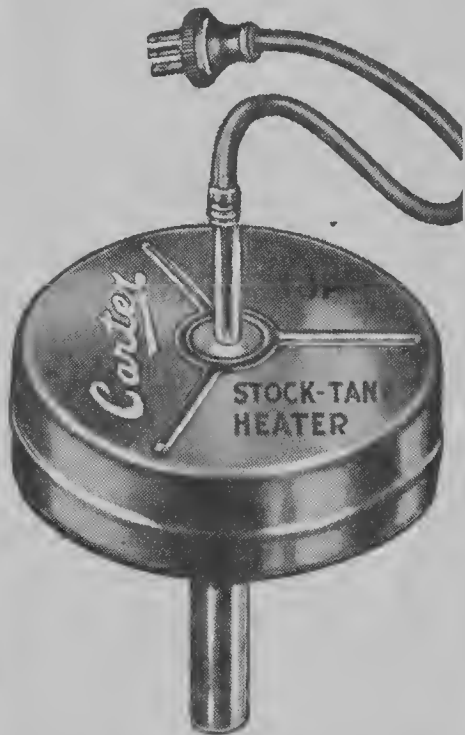
The Farmall Fast-Hitch, for the Farmall Super C tractor, uses hydraulic power to align the sockets on the hitch yoke to match the height or tilt of the coupling beams on the implement. It is said to eliminate the lifting and jockeying that sometimes go with hitching onto an implement. (International Harvester Co. of Canada, Ltd., Winnipeg.)



Plastic pipe is said to be suitable for farm and ranch water systems. Manufacturers claim it is resistant to rot and rust, is immune to the effects of acid or alkali soil, and is not damaged when water in it is frozen. (Beardmore and Co. Ltd., 37 Front St. E., Toronto.)



This electric finishing sander incorporates a vacuum dust pick-up system. Using a coarse abrasive, the Porter Cable sander is said to grind down wood rapidly. It is for use with fine sandpapers, too, for a glass-smooth finish on wood, or for surfacing metals. (Strongridge Ltd., 124 Weston Rd., London, Ontario.)



This float-type water heater is designed for those who do not require a permanent water heating installation. A built-in safety switch is said to guard against boiling the water dry in the trough. (James B. Carter, Ltd., 85 Water Ave., Winnipeg.)

## Can Trees Stand Defoliation?

*Research people try to answer this question*

SOME experiments have been made in recent years by the Forest Biology Division, Canada Department of Agriculture, to determine how much loss of leaves trees can stand and survive. As a result of these tests in which trees have been artificially deprived of their leaves and their subsequent behavior noted, it is concluded that broad-leaved trees may survive complete loss of foliage for two or more successive years. It does not seem to matter what time of year the defoliation occurs.

Experiments in the Maritime Provinces, however, seem to indicate that the beech, found very commonly in the east, is an exception.

Birch and poplar, when deprived of their leaves, produced a second crop of foliage in the same year, followed by

satisfactory growths the following spring. This occurred, however, only where the dormant buds were not removed. Less damage on all trees results when the leaves are removed in late summer. Investigators conclude that the capacity to survive defoliation is apparently related to the capacity to produce a second crop of leaves.

Among conifers, the situation is more variable. Most coniferous species will die after complete defoliation. If only the new growth is lost, even if buds are killed, the tree may last four or five years before dying. This happens with the balsam fir, for example, when defoliated by the spruce budworm. Many trees in eastern Canada, it is reported, have withstood partial defoliation of the old growth, for six or more consecutive years.

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## IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA

## 79th ANNUAL STATEMENT

<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>RESERVE</b>
<b>\$7,000,000</b>	<b>\$12,000,000</b>

Year Ending 31st October, 1953

## ASSETS

Deposits with and Notes of Bank of Canada	\$ 56,115,740.66
Notes of and Cheques on Other Banks	46,415,769.91
Other Cash and Deposits	7,824,656.74
Government and Municipal Securities (not exceeding market value)	188,619,087.49
Other Bonds and Stocks (not exceeding market value)	8,219,432.99
Call Loans (secured)	9,003,462.84
<b>TOTAL QUICK ASSETS</b>	<b>\$316,198,150.63</b>
Commercial and Other Loans (after provision for bad and doubtful debts)	291,208,111.17
Liabilities of Customers under Acceptances and Letters of Credit (as per contra)	6,985,878.02
Bank Premises	8,746,168.54
Other Assets	10,812.31
	<b>\$623,149,120.67</b>

## LIABILITIES

Deposits	\$595,918,713.08
Acceptances and Letters of Credit Outstanding	6,985,878.02
Other Liabilities	238,718.62
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES TO THE PUBLIC</b>	<b>\$603,143,309.72</b>
Dividends due Shareholders	438,903.45
Capital, Reserve and Undivided Profits	19,566,907.50
	<b>\$623,149,120.67</b>

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Profits for the year ended 31st October, 1953, after contributions to Staff Pension Fund and after making appropriations to Contingency Reserves out of which full provision for bad and doubtful debts has been made	\$ 3,653,099.53
Provision for depreciation of Bank Premises, Furniture and Equipment	464,933.03
Provision for Government of Canada Income Taxes and Provincial Taxes	\$ 3,188,166.50
	<b>\$ 1,402,166.50</b>
Dividends at the rate of \$1.20 per share	\$840,000.00
Provision for Bonus of 30c per share payable 1st December, 1953	210,000.00
	<b>1,050,000.00</b>
Balance of Profits carried forward	\$ 352,166.50
Profit and Loss Balance 31st October, 1952	1,214,741.00
	<b>\$ 1,566,907.50</b>
Transferred to Reserve Fund	1,000,000.00
Profit and Loss Balance 31st October, 1953	<b>\$ 566,907.50</b>

## RESERVE FUND

Balance at credit of account 31st October, 1952	\$ 11,000,000.00
Transferred from Profit and Loss Account	1,000,000.00
Balance at credit of account 31st October, 1953	<b>\$ 12,000,000.00</b>

L. S. MACKERSY  
PresidentJ. S. PROCTOR  
General Manager

● This feature is furnished monthly  
by United Grain Growers Limited

## MONTHLY

Final Payments on 1952-53  
Barley and Oats Pools

Details of final payments for the 1952-53 barley and oats pool accounts were announced by the Canadian Wheat Board some weeks ago. The actual mailing of payment cheques to producers commenced on November 3 in the case of oats and November 23 in the case of barley.

During the period covered by the 1952-53 pool western producers delivered on Board account 118,968,000 bushels of oats and 164,887,000 bushels of barley. The total sum involved in the final payment amounts to \$10,949,996 for oats and \$21,408,203 for barley giving average per bushel payments of 9.24 cents and 13 cents respectively.

The following table shows a partial schedule of final payments.

Oats		Cents per Bu.
Grade		
No. 1 C.W.	.....	9.028
No. 2 C.W.	.....	9.028
No. 3 C.W.	.....	9.128
No. 4 Mixed Grain	.....	19.012
No. 1 Feed	.....	8.393
No. 2 Feed	.....	13.274
No. 3 Feed	.....	15.861
Mixed Feed	.....	15.494

Barley		Cents per Bu.
Grade		
No. 1 C.W. 2-Row	.....	19.173
No. 2 C.W. 2-Row	.....	19.173
No. 1 C.W. 6-Row	.....	14.099
No. 2 C.W. 6-Row	.....	14.099
No. 3 C.W. 6-Row	.....	13.357
No. 1 Feed	.....	10.758
No. 2 Feed	.....	16.203
No. 3 Feed	.....	16.327

## Delivery Quotas Eased

The Canadian Wheat Board announced that effective November 4, the minimum delivery of grain under the initial quota of three bushels per specified acre is increased from 500 to 700 bushels, provided elevator space is available for the additional deliveries.

"Producers whose specified acreage is 234 acres or less and who have not delivered 700 bushels under the initial quota may now deliver sufficient additional grain to bring their deliveries up to the newly established minimum of 700 bushels," stated the Board.

This action by the Board is intended to further assist those producers with limited acreages seeded to grain crops.

Additional delivery privileges have been granted to producers with more than half their 1953 specified acreage seeded to oats.

A farmer whose oats acreage was 50 per cent or more of his total specified acreage may deliver on the following basis: 50 to 59 per cent in oats, two bushels per seeded acre of oats; 60 to 69 per cent oats, four bushels per acre; 70 to 79 per cent oats, six bushels per acre; 80 to 89 per cent oats, ten bushels per acre; 100 per cent oats, 12 bushels per acre.

No deliveries under the above privileges may be accepted at the country elevator until issued by the Board and received by the elevator agent.

The Wheat Board also announced that producers may now deliver oats and barley in excess of current quotas

if such grain is to be used as commercial seed. In order to deliver under this authority the seller must first obtain an acceptance by a recognized cleaning plant before a permit for delivery will be granted by the Board.

Producers whose grain is accepted as commercial seed are permitted to deliver only *one car of either oats or barley* under this special delivery authority. Producers who have received authority to deliver a carlot of malting barley over the quota are not eligible for further over-delivery privileges. A special application must be submitted to the Board's Calgary or Winnipeg office for permission to deliver the commercial seed grain in excess of the regular quota. Grain delivered under the authority of these special permits must be marketed through and for account of the Canadian Wheat Board. V

## Exchanges for Seed Purposes

The Canadian Wheat Board has announced that it will again allow elevator companies to exchange Board stocks of wheat, oats and barley for lower grades of these grains to enable producers to secure higher grades for their seed purposes.

Any variety of red spring wheat, durum, wheat, oats or barley may be exchanged but wheat released under this plan must grade No. 1 Hard, No. 1 or 2 Northern in the case of red wheat, or No. 1, 2 or 3 C.W. in the case of durum wheat.

Exchanges will be on a bushel-for-bushel basis and cash settlement must be made for the difference in grade, basis the Board's domestic sale prices on the date of exchange plus the usual elevator charges. Where the producer wishes to deliver tough or damp grains in exchange for dry grains, the initial payment tough or damp discount is to be used in calculating the settlement.

The Wheat Board accepts no responsibility for the germination, condition or purity as to either variety or freedom from weed seeds and the producer must sign a seed grain waiver. V

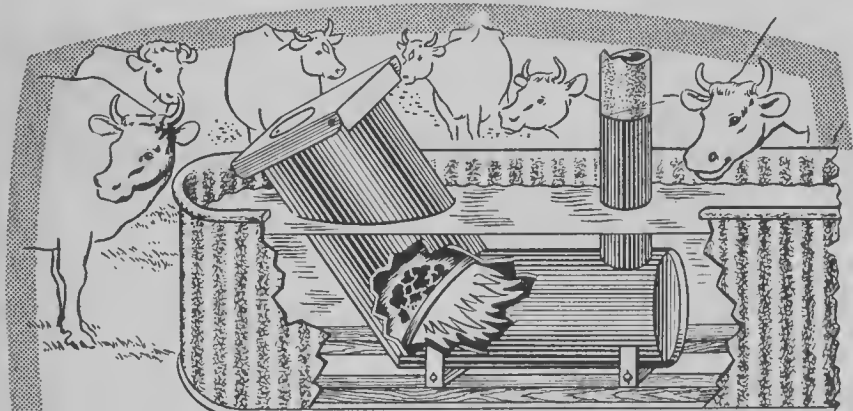
I.W.A. Export Quotas  
Established

Reduction in annual export quotas under the renewed International Wheat Agreement were announced by the International Wheat Council following its meeting at Madrid, October 20-23. The reductions, necessary because of the failure of the United Kingdom to enter the new pact, totalled 17.3 million bushels less than the last U.K. quota of 177 million bushels.

New export quotas for the I.W.A. crop year August 1, 1953, through July 31, 1954, contrasted with the quotas for the previous year are as follows:

Country	1953-54 Bushels	1952-53 Bushels
U.S.A.	209,558,085	253,128,000
Canada	163,230,880	235,000,000
Australia	48,000,000	88,700,000
France	367,437	4,089,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>421,156,402</b>	<b>580,917,000</b>

While Canada received the largest bushelage reduction, percentage-wise the United States has also suffered.



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## COMMENTARY

Last year, the final in the previous pact, Canadian sales to the U.K. of approximately 112 million bushels were nearly five times the U.S. sales to that country under I.W.A. Consequently, it appears obvious that the ratio of purchases by the U.K. from Canada and the U.S. was not the only criterion of adjustment. What factors were considered or agreements reached are difficult to determine.

Sales under the new Agreement are proceeding but at a considerably smaller volume than at the same time last year. Cumulative sales recorded by the International Wheat Council through November 13, 1953, totalled approximately 88 million bushels. Broken down among member exporting nations sales were recorded as follows: Canada 37.5 million bushels, United States 42.9 million bushels, Australia 7.6 million bushels and France 36.7 thousand bushels.

Under the Wheat Agreement, member exporting countries are obligated to sell their respective guaranteed quantities at the maximum Agreement price and importing countries are required to buy their guaranteed quantities at the minimum price, if and when requested to do so through the Council. Otherwise, transactions under the Agreement are voluntary at prices mutually agreed between buyer and seller, within the maximum-minimum price range.

Four exporting nations and 42 importing nations ratified the new Agreement for a period of three years ending July 31, 1956.

Following the withdrawal of the U.K. from the Agreement there had been some feeling that the seat of the Wheat Council would be changed. However, it is now probable that it will be retained in the U.K. as it appears this is the most convenient location for the majority of member nations. V

### United States Situation

Total wheat supplies in the United States for the crop year 1953-54 are currently estimated at about 1,730 million bushels, consisting of a carryover at July 1, 1953, of about 562 million bushels, a current crop estimated at 1,163 million bushels and imports of approximately five million bushels of feed wheat. This is the largest supply on record for the United States and is 8 per cent above the previous peak in 1942-43 and about 10 per cent above that of a year ago. Domestic disappearance is estimated at about 700 million bushels and if exports total 250 million bushels, over 775 millions will be left for carryover on July 1, 1954.

As a result of marketing quotas a smaller wheat acreage is in prospect for 1954. If the acreage seeded approximates the national allotment of 62 million acres, about 950 million bushels would be produced next year, assuming yields equal to the 1943-52 average. While it is too early to assume other than average acreages and average yields, the dry weather which has prevailed in the southwestern states may have held seedings close to the 62 million acre level. However, a fortnight of intermittent rain

and snow during the first half of November has given the southwestern wheat area the most favorable moisture situation in over two years. In general the crop is expected to go into the winter in more favorable condition than last year when stands were poor and the soil loose and dry.

Price-wise the American wheat producer may expect to do pretty well with his 1954 crop. National average price support was announced on October 8 at not less than \$2.20 per bushel. This is 90 per cent of the August 15, 1953, wheat parity price of \$2.45 per bushel. Support for the 1953 wheat crop, now eligible for loan and purchase agreement, is a national average of \$2.21 per bushel. To be eligible for price support in 1954 the producer must comply with his 1954 wheat acreage allotment as well as other allotments which might be established for basic commodities.

With American prices currently running below the support level impoundings of wheat in the loan program are setting new records. As early as October 15 the program was protecting approximately 350 million bushels of the 1953 crop which was about 38 million bushels more than at the same time last year. All of this increase is reflected in the increase in farm stored loan commitments. It would seem probable that the influence of this substantial loan program would soon begin to make itself felt in the larger markets, particularly in the spring wheat market where impoundings are substantially heavier than last year.

However, the American wheat producer and the United States Department of Agriculture are faced with a weighty problem which could become more acute in the months ahead. If exports fail to reach the 250 million bushels, the carryover would, of course, become proportionately larger. Again, assuming larger than normal crop yields next year the carryover in 1955 could be substantially larger than that expected at the end of the current crop year.

Under the stress of strong political pressure the present administration might be persuaded to take stronger action directed toward disposal of at least part of the present wheat supply. For some time consideration has been given to a two-price plan for wheat and possibly cotton which could change the present system of rigid price supports. The main purpose of the plan is to restore U.S. exports of wheat. Cost to the taxpayer beyond administration charges would be no greater than under the present system. Advocates of the plan claim that farm income would not be reduced.

The essence of the plan is that farmers would receive a support price for that part of the wheat used domestically and a free market price for the remainder. Presumably the remainder would be priced at a level where buyers would be found. Those who favor this system claim that the farmer wouldn't lose income because acreage and marketing controls would be eliminated.

Failure to settle upon this two-price system could lead to the adoption of other methods of surplus disposal. V

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# RED ROSE

# COFFEE

*Really Fresh*

## Millions from Peat Moss

Continued from page 10

in tiny, cellophane bags, or in the regular, 100-pound bales. When buying peat moss in quantity, one can judge quality by weight. Light bales contain the best sphagnum. Each year more farmers learn the value of peat moss and new Canadian markets open to the wonder product.

WHEN cut from the bog, peat runs about 90 per cent water. By applying water to a cork-like square of dried material, one can swell

it up to four or five times its original size. On soil, that is what happens. Tiny morsels of sphagnum moss swell with rain and lively plant cells hold on, slowly giving up the burden.

According to the Western Peat Moss Company manager, mining and harvesting peat moss is not all sunshine. Because of fire and other hazards, many peat farmers go broke. Some peat bogs contain so much water that drainage is necessary before cutting begins. Last year, eight miles from New Westminster, at one Western bog, a small campfire ignited a conflagration that cost more than \$8,000 to quench. Besides that, it burned 80,000 bales of dried peat moss.

Recently, new methods of drying moss were introduced. To save time, one company installed a mechanical drier: but the cost hinders more companies from the use of the new equipment. Sun and wind-dried moss is believed to produce the best product.

From the Arctic to the Antarctic, peat moss deposits have been found, used and given various names. The uses have varied from panties to planes. Eskimo mothers utilized peat moss to line their papoose-toting baskets. During World War II, peat moss helped to refine magnesium. Indians called the moss Labrador, or Hudson Bay tea. Like early Egyptians, Indians used the moss for dressing wounds.

Even today, it is recognized and sometimes used for surgical dressing in out-of-the-way hospitals.

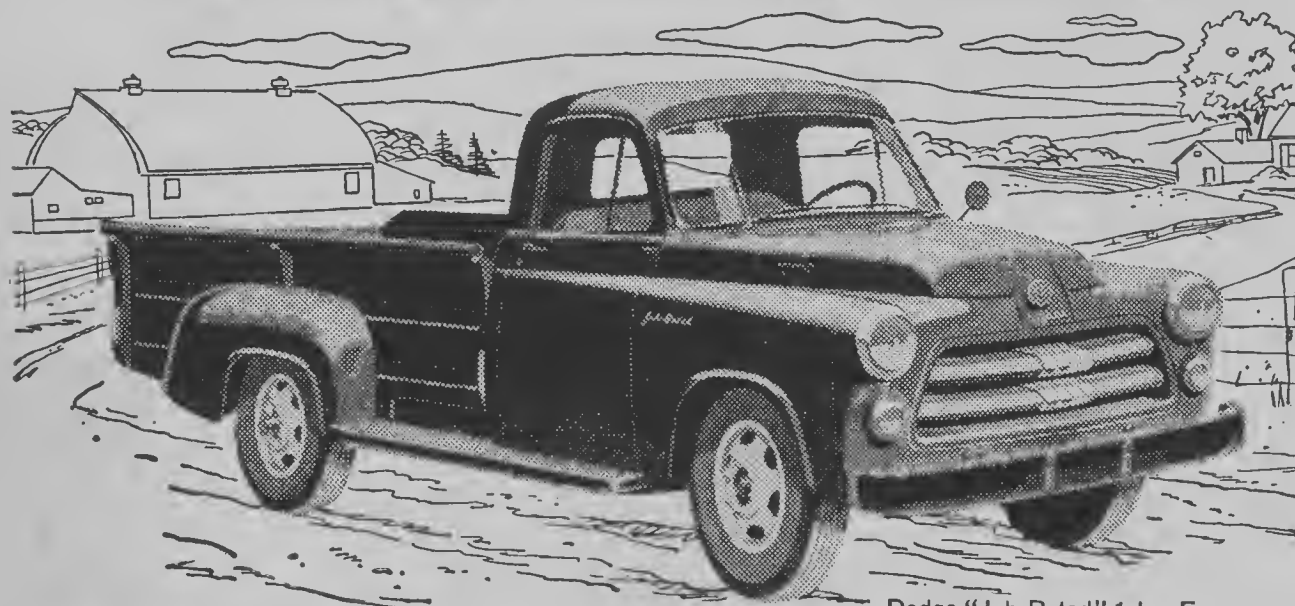
On soil where peat moss has been removed, good crops can be grown. Of course, if every inch of moss is taken from clay, then, "inbringing," the addition of soil-warming and enriching processes, becomes necessary to make the heavier earth fertile and arable again. Some peat companies use peat-stripped land to grow blueberries and cranberries. According to Richmond Peat Company on Lulu Island, they grew four acres of the largest, sweetest, and heaviest-bearing cranberries in North America, on land they had stripped. Their claim was backed by a United States director of the National Cranberry Association.

The fact remains that in spite of mining, harvesting, processing and marketing difficulties, the peat moss business is a multi-million dollar venture and is wide open for by-product development. Since 1940, the output has doubled. To the tune of 500,000 bales yearly, not counting millions of packages, Canada's immense peat harvesting industry is still growing. V

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"Job-Rated"  
TRUCKS

NEW CAB COMFORT FINER VISION GREATER SAFETY



Dodge "Job-Rated" 1-ton Express

## NEW HANDSOME DESIGN

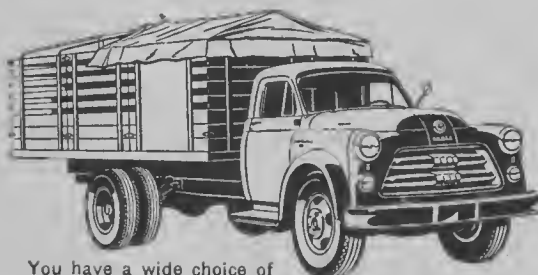
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Completely new in design, the 1954 Dodge trucks are "Job-Rated" to cut your hauling costs to a minimum. Their lower centre of gravity makes them easier to handle under all conditions and they're easier to load and unload. They have the shortest attainable turning radius, right and left . . . and they have ample power for "off-the-highway" hauling with full load.

The new Dodge cabs have been redesigned to make driving safer and more comfortable . . . floors and running boards are lower, doors higher and wider . . . the big, one-piece windshield and high side windows with lower sills, give wide-angle vision for safer, easier manoeuvring . . . extra roomy 3-man seats are

chair-high, with full luxury-type seat cushions . . . cabs are heavily insulated against sound and vibration.

In the wide range of models available, you'll find the one that fits your needs exactly—with all the units which support the load, and all the units which help move the load, "Job-Rated" to work together. It will pay you to see them today at your Dodge truck dealer's.



You have a wide choice of Dodge models. All are designed to mount standard bodies perfectly.

ONLY DODGE BUILDS "JOB-RATED" TRUCKS

PHONE YOUR DODGE TRUCK DEALER FOR A DEMONSTRATION

## Don't Ever Tell The Ants

ALMOST anyone could name several kinds of farmers, ranging from grain farmers to fur farmers. But who ever heard of an ant farmer? Apparently in Finland there are quite a few of them. A recent article in Finland Pictorial says that there are enough of them to form an association which has exported as high as 100,000 pounds of ant eggs in a single year. The British buy them for food: not for themselves, of course, but for birds and fish, and the "farmer" receives about \$1.50 per pound for the eggs.

Here is the description of how the eggs are gathered. It seems the "boss" took his whole family along to watch the process. His entire farming equipment consisted only of a shovel and a few clean sheets:

"The boss soon came to his first 'plant'—an enormous ant hill, built at the foot of a tree.

"After finding a suitable factory, the boss spreads the sheets on the ground and then arranges leafy birch twigs around the edges of the sheets. Then he goes to the ant hill and scoops up a part of it with his shovel, ants and all. This he dumps onto the sheets and spreads it around so that it is well exposed to the sun. After a few shovelfuls are spread on each sheet, the boss and his family can sit down to read, take a sun bath or eat a picnic lunch, provided of course that the ants don't find them.

"In the meantime, the ants—to whom it seems a dirty trick—take care of the rest of the work. They have discovered, to their horror, that the eggs now are exposed to the direct rays of the sun. As a result, they quickly gather them up and put them in the nearest protected spot, which, of course, is under the leafy twigs spread at the edges of the sheets. After the hard-working ants have completed this task they leave to go study the damage to their hill. Then, the boss has little more to do than to gather the eggs off the sheets." V



## THE THULMAN FLUE

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DEALERS WANTED

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St. James

## Thirty a Month And Up

Continued from page 11

pens. The shearer grabs the sheep, and two-and-a-half to three minutes later it is pushed on, minus its fleece, which is passed to the man who ties the fleeces. The fleece is tied with a special string, then tossed up to a "wool trumper," who drops it into an eight-foot-deep bag and tramps it down. One of these large bags holds 35 to 40 fleeces. When the bag is full the top is sewed up, and the bags are shipped in carload lots to the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Association in western Ontario. On the ranch this year, fleeces averaged ten pounds, and when the final returns from the wool pool are in, Mr. Walmark expects to realize about 40 cents per pound.

After the shearing the sheep go back on range to do some more growing and fattening and, incidentally, to replace their woolly coat for insulation against the winter winds.

WHILE the sheep bask on the sunny prairie hillsides, their owner is busy gathering hay for winter feeding. All the feed is wild hay, cut from the best parts of an 800-900-acre, low-lying meadow. This meadow is planned for maximum production. Skull Creek flows nearby, and it is dammed to divert spring run-off across the meadow. Dikes and ditches spread the water over the entire area. Six dikes cross the meadow, each dike holding water over part of the haying area. In a wet year, excess water is finally allowed to drain away.

From mid-July until mid-September the hay crews are busy. A large mechanical stacker in front of the tractor pushes the hay toward the stacks and hoists it to make stacks that reach up close to 25 feet, on a 24 by 36-foot base.

In late October, with the haying completed, the range bands are again brought in, the lambs cut out and the older ewes culled. It is not considered economical to keep a range ewe past the age of six years. The remaining breeding ewes go back on range. The ewe lambs for breeding are held until they are weaned, and then they, too, go out. Culls and wethers are sold as feeders; and for the last few years, Albert Green, who owns a feed lot at Picture Butte, Alberta, has been buying all the feeder stock. Last year these numbered 1,800 lambs and 500 cull ewes. The lambs averaged 76 pounds and sold for 16 cents a pound, just half the 32 cents they brought in

1951; and the ewes fetched seven to eight dollars each.

Attending to the stock during the winter demands the attention of six men—the two sheep herders, Mr. Walmark, and three others. One man attends to the cattle that are grain-fed as long yearlings; the herders are with the sheep; and the other three men haul feed to the stock.

The sheep are out all winter. They do not feel the cold as much as the cattle; also, they paw the snow, and are therefore better equipped to find grass. Range is held in reserve for the winter camps, so the sheep are on long grass all winter. When the weather is



J. A. Walmark demonstrates how culverts in the dikes can be opened to let excess water drain off his hay meadows.

cold, the feed they pick is supplemented with hay from the stacks; and in very stormy, or cold weather, everything they get is from the hay stacks. There is a winter shed and stockades on the winter range to break the wind. The sheep are fed on the snow and drink in troughs, with the chill taken off the water.

The sheep on the ranch are chiefly Rambouillet, though some Romnelet and Corriedale rams have been used during the last few years.

A small flock owner may be happy to get two lambs from just one ewe, but the range ewe roughs it and cannot handle twins. In the spring of 1952, Mr. Walmark, who frequently presents the second twin to neighbors, gave 700 away before he got tired of keeping count.

Mr. and Mrs. Walmark might not advise a young man who wants to start into sheep ranching, to begin his career by taking a wrong train, but the initial error that landed Mr. Walmark in Manyberries a quarter of a century ago, has proved to be a profitable mistake for both of them.



For two and one-half years J. A. Walmark cooked, slept and lived in a canvas-covered shepherd's wagon similar to the abandoned one shown above.



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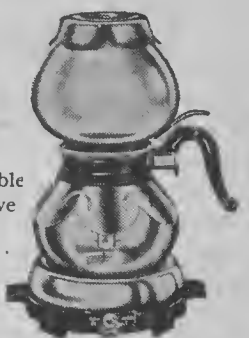
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## The Curse

Continued from page 8

restless chatter, as they passed and repassed with their stores. The trees in the camp yard swarmed with scolding whisky jacks, caching rare tidbits from the scrap-pile, and preening their ashy grey plumage. A large flock of buntings waited their turn to swoop down, as if it were the only day of the year when they could feast upon the abundance that the yard afforded. Slinky, the weasel, sat on his little haunches with his forepaws on the windowpane to peer into the cabin for some new victim, to form another morsel of food.

That's it, Helga soliloquized. They know it's coming; snow and real winter. She noted the low ceiling of sombre grey clouds, the flurries of first snow, and the gentle motion of the branches before the windows.

AS the afternoon wore on, the wind, that had been but a soft whisper in the pine tops, became a howling demon, bending and swaying the willows of the lakeshore, and beating against the heavier tree trunks with an increased fury that shivered through the whole point of land. The grey ceiling broke into more ominous clouds that stampeded across the sky like angry moose bulls.

Helga spread an extra blanket over little Thor. Carefully, she checked the fire. The men should be home early today. I'll meet John at the narrows, she said to herself, uneasily.

She made her way to the lookout. The storm tore madly at her slacks and parka, and lashed her slender body as she stood on the farthest jutting boulder of the point. Out on the lake, she could see the men toiling homeward through the storm. Already Alfred had reached the narrows, running lightly beside the dogs to urge them on; and Helga could see John behind, at Weetigo Point.

"I'm glad they're almost home," she said aloud, with a thrill of pleasure.

Then suddenly she stared in horror. Far out, in an open stretch of the big lake, the waves frothed in surging swells, hurling their might'y force against the ice-fetters of the bay and the narrows. The ice began to move in great undulations, then slowly crumble into fragments before her gaze. In sickening horror, she saw Alfred and his dogs plunge through, struggling for a moment in a tangle of ropes and harness, then disappearing under the seething waters and ice.

A nauseating weakness swept over her. In helpless anguish, she leaned against a gnarled old tree trunk for support, her fascinated eyes glued to the spot where they had gone down, and where now a hundred ice floes tumbled.

At last, with effort, Helga tore her gaze from the fatal spot, to search fearfully the farther distance of Weetigo Point. Beyond the chaos in the narrows, the ice had broken off in an enormous single sheet. The blood coursed through her heart again, for she could see John standing upon the storm-driven ice floe.

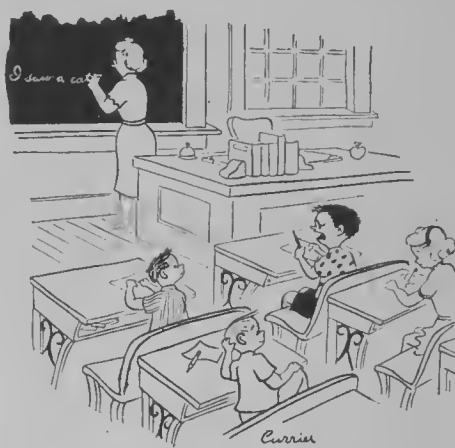
He had seen her where she stood silhouetted upon the point, and he waved. Swiftly, her arm shot up in response.

"Dear God, keep him safe," she prayed. With one last glance toward the cabin, she dashed down the path to the lakeshore.

The canoe lay inverted at the water's edge, the paddles beneath it. It was but four hundred yards or so—she would attempt a rescue. As she struggled to launch the craft, she thanked God for the good fortune that had made her a fisherman's daughter, tough and strong, and skilful with oar and paddle. With strength born of desperation, Helga pushed out. She did not feel the storm; she did not see the angry frothing waves, nor heed the cauldron of swirling death that lay in her path.

John was out there. She must get to him.

As she plied the dangerous way ahead, she could hear him calling above the moaning of the pines, but she could not distinguish what he was saying, nor dream that he was telling her to go back. All she knew was that now she was nearer; so



"I saw a cat, too, but I don't see any sense in writing about it!"

near, that she could hear his voice. New strength came into the arms that plied the paddle.

And now John's words pierced her consciousness.

"Go back, Helga. For God's sake, go back to our son," he entreated. He was right. Slowly, the horrible realization came to her that, if John and she should perish, Thor, too, would die by the fearful fate of cold and starvation.

It was useless. Before her lay the moving ice-jam, about her swirled the treacherous eddies. The ice smote her canoe, threatening to gore its sides as she strove in vain to push through.

"Go to Joe Vestman's camp for help," John shouted. "I'll be all right."

"John, darling—" Helga cried in agony above the din of the storm.

As she turned to obey, her throat swelled in a voiceless sob. Now she hated the lake as fervently as she once had loved it. Its tumultuous roar was like the surge of evil passions, ugly and uncontrolled. It would snatch John from her, as she had seen it snatch the helpless Alfred and his dogs.

But she must seek help!

ACROSS Big Bay, in the opposite direction, Joe Vestman's camp lay just one mile away. The darkness of a long northern night was fast approaching, and Helga dared not take the shortcut though the ice there was still intact. Instead, she struggled with the weight of little Thor in her arms the three miles around the shoreline in a trance, as if driven on the demon of the narrows. Her heart was heavy with dread and fear; her limbs too numbed by shock to feel the cold.



Through the darkness she sped, with only one clear image before her: John, as she had left him, adrift on a floe. Well she knew that even now that floe might have been shattered to bits.

She shuddered as the howling of wolves came from across the bay. She quickened her step. In her haste, her foot caught in the branches of a fallen tree, and she sprawled to her knees, scratching her face on a limb as she fell.

It was as if all the strength had been drained from her. With difficulty, she got up, her knees swaying and her body staggering. Only her will held on, in unswerving determination to reach her destination. At last she could see the light of Vestman's camp flickering like a star through the darkness and the storm. The sight of it invigorated her with renewed strength to climb up the lakeshore to the camp door. Dishevelled and snow-covered, she staggered into the cabin.

"My lands! What brings you here, on a night like this, child?" Maria Vestman quavered.

"John is adrift on an ice floe at Weetigo Point, beyond the narrows. Alfred Moose was drowned. He went down with the dogs and nets," Helga said, in a hoarse whisper. She laid Thor on the cot and, as her arms relaxed their hold, she became aware of the pain of their aching muscles.

AN awed hush fell on the little room. Joe Vestman was already pulling on his outer garments, and old Bjorn went out quickly to harness the dogs. Helga dropped into a seat beside the fire, and forced down the warm coffee that old Maria brought to revive her spent strength.

"I'm going with them," she said. "Thor will be safe with you."

"But, my dear Helga, you are better here with me. The men will do all that human power can do," Maria protested. "There is nothing now that we can do but pray."

But the woman's efforts to dissuade Helga were in vain. Waiting here would be unendurable. She felt that she must go back, must see them battle for John's life against the lake and the storm. She must be there when John came home.

Mute and miserable, she climbed onto the toboggan and huddled in the cariole. She could not drive out of her mind the calamity that had befallen her husband, nor forget for an instant the grave peril that faced the man she loved.

"Hi! Mush!" old Bjorn shouted to the dogs, and Helga turned to wave farewell to old Maria, who stood at the open cabin door looking after them as they sped into the night.

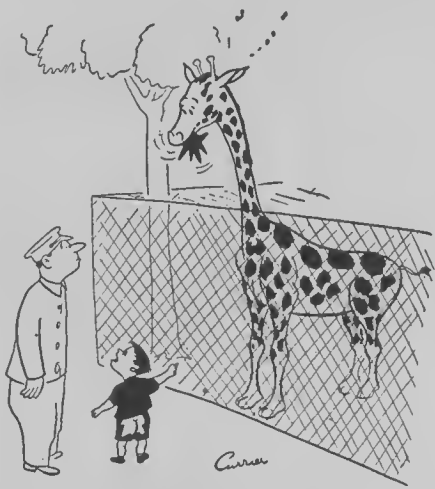
It was a silent journey. Only the cracking of the whip, mingled with the moaning of the pines from time to time, as old Bjorn urged on his dogs. The sharp barbs of snow and the driving blast beat against their faces, in spite of the furred parka hoods. Already, there was a blanket of loose snow three or four inches deep, making the going more difficult, and covering the ice so completely that they must follow the shoreline.

The trees of the lakeshore fled past them, ghostly black shadows in the blacker night. Sometimes, their overhanging branches emptied their snow burden upon them. Beyond the swirling storm, Big Bay lay in impenetrable

darkness. Helga tried to peer ahead, fearing each moment that the ice might crack, and that they might be forced to turn back. Bjorn's urgent commands to his dogs cheered her a little, reviving the hope that they would soon be there.

"Mush, Skuggil!" he shouted to his fiery leader, cracking the rawhide close above the dog's bristling back. The huskies plunged ahead. Now Helga could recognize Birch Point by its three leaning birches on a jutting peninsula reaching far out into the lake. Ahead was treacherous Rock Point, where she was certain that she heard the cracking of ice above the din of the storm. She held her breath, not in fear for herself, but lest some misadventure delay their progress and the rescue.

Now they were nearing the open narrows, with its ice-jammed shores, and Bjorn led his dogs up the rough bush trail, where the toboggan grated heavily over the stones and brush-roots that were still only half-covered



with snow. So slowly they went, that it seemed to Helga that the last of the interminable miles would never come to an end. At last, the whining and barking of the dogs told her they had sighted camp. Without a word, Bjorn tied the dogs in the shelter of the cabin, and Helga ran inside to light the lamp.

"The outboard is here," she called, anxious for them to be out on the lake with the least possible delay. Joe Vestman had followed her in, and shouldering the motor, strode after Bjorn to the lakeshore.

In silent dread, Helga followed. She ran out to the end of the old rickety dock, and tried in vain to pierce the gloom that shrouded the narrows and the lake beyond. It was all black, and void, and sinister. And now, as she stood there with the gale lashing her, gazing unseeingly out upon the waters that held John's fate, she realized that the Weetigo was to the Cree the embodiment of all the fear, and the cold, the starvation and misery of their lives. Tonight she had suffered, and for the first time she understood the Indian legend of the curse of Manitou Wapow. With heavy heart, she returned to where the men were making ready to go out on the lake.

"Get the fire going, and have food and coffee ready," old Bjorn called to her, as he pushed out. Helga did not move to obey his command. She stood rooted to the spot, watching him ply his paddle till Joe got the outboard started, and they disappeared from sight into the night.

Moments seemed like ages as she waited. Four hundred yards, she thought, it shouldn't take so long, if only they can push through the ice.

Time passed as if on leaden feet, and they did not return.

He must have drifted out—or—. But she left the thought unfinished. Her whole being went out in a silent, wordless prayer.

IT was useless to wait longer. With slow steps, Helga turned to the cabin, leaving behind her the scarcely audible drone of the motor, and the din of the breakers. Mechanically, she lit the fire, set the kettle on the stove, and waited. Presently, the warmth from the crackling fire filled the cabin. The kettle began to sing. Helga was reminded that there was work at hand. It would be bitterly cold out on the lake on such a night—the men would be hungry.

She laid aside her outer garments, and began to prepare a meal. The big potful of meat she had boiled for supper was simmering again, where she had left it on the back of the stove. She would make soup—and dumplings. These would be warm, and filling.

With accustomed efficiency, Helga measured the ingredients, stirring them together. She dropped big spoonfuls of batter into the boiling broth, and put on a tight cover. They would be ready in twenty minutes, she thought, as she made the coffee. She set the table, laying four plates, cups and spoons. She recalled the morning: John's wistful lingering; what he had said about his father. Then her thoughts flew across the miles to Maria, and little Thor, and back once more to John.

Restlessly, every few minutes, she went to the door and listened for the throb of an outboard. Outside, there was nothing but the storm. Perhaps by daybreak it would have spent its fury. Her eyes sought the clock on the shelf above Thor's crib. It was only a little after midnight. Would the dawn never come!

She picked up her knitting, and her fingers flew as she tried to fill the empty minutes with useful service. Vainly, she struggled to push aside her fears with other thoughts, until she no longer dared to think at all. She began to recite verses her mother had taught her, and poems she had learned as a child at school. But the sound of her own voice in the empty cabin frightened her, and it faded before the beating of her heart.

"Oh, why don't they come?" she whispered.

The waiting moments dragged wearily by. At last, Helga heard the sound for which her heart had waited. The drone of an approaching motor upon the lake came to her through a lull in the storm. Presently, she heard the voices of the men coming up the path. She stood in the doorway, peering into the darkness. Some force held her back from running to meet them. The hunched figures formed a shapeless blotch of black against the darkness. The blotch separated. She saw, then, that there were two—only two.

Hope died within her. She backed into the room, and stood straight and still as the two fishermen, their oilers stiff with frozen spray, entered. Their haggard faces were grim with failure and despair. Helga stared at them in dumb misery.

"It was no use," old Bjorn said dejectedly.

Helga made no reply. It was as if the light had gone out of her life

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forever. She turned away from them so that they might not see her face, and so read the stricken anguish of her soul. Yet, strangely enough, she could not weep. Her body was rigid, as though frozen. Waves of chill swept over her.

Without, the wind moaned a dirge. A fierce gust shook the cabin and the door rattled. She was vaguely aware that the men behind her were wrestling to remove their frozen garments. They had not spoken since Bjorn's first few fateful words. They had striven in the night against the elements and risked their lives for John and her. They were weary, cold

and hungry. Automatically, she reached for the coffee pot on the stove behind her, walked to the table, and filled two cups. Silently, the two men slumped wearily into the waiting chairs. Helga lifted the lid off the soup pot and ladled the steaming broth out into two large bowls and set one before each man.

"That soup smells good, and we're sure hungry," said Joe Vestman gravely.

THE room was strangely quiet against a sudden lull in the wind. Outside, a dog's sudden sharp bark cut through the night air, followed by a

chorus of canine yelping, increasing in intensity. All three were motionless, with gestures fixed. Joe, with his filled spoon half-raised; Bjorn, with his coffee cup to his lips. The eyes of the two men, for the first time since they entered the cabin, were raised to Helga's face. She stood between the table and the stove, her gaze fastened on the door. Was it their fancy only that there was a commotion outside?

The latch rattled, and the door burst open, and a man's figure stumbled in. It was John! He closed the door, and leaned against the sill to regain breath. Helga flew across the room and into his arms.

"John, John, darling John, you're safe," she cried, and pressed close to the comforting reality of him. The snow on his parka was wet and cold against her face buried in his breast; his arms around her were strong and real. The floodgates opened, and her tears flowed in unrestrained relief.

Over her head, John looked at the two men, motionless at the table. "The gale drove the floe from the narrows, and current swept it clean across to Sandy Beach. I walked the shoreline from there—must be a good ten miles around. Alfred is gone . . ."

"Poor Alfred!" Helga lifted her head and said huskily. "Now I understand the fear in his eyes when he spoke of the devil's curse on the narrows. The wind, John—the wind carried you away from it. Thank God, you are safe." V

## Fruit Is Healthful

IF the people in non-commercial fruit areas were forced to buy all the fruit they ought to eat each year, it would be fairly expensive food. Fortunately in western Canada we can grow some kinds of fruit, even though the more tender commercial kinds are reserved for favored areas. Fruits provide many of the vitamins which are now known to be necessary in a well-balanced diet. Fruits are also easily digested and can provide readily, therefore, many of the nutrients the human body requires.

Fruits and vegetables are the chief sources of ascorbic acid (vitamin C). These are the only foods which contribute this vitamin in any large amounts, according to A. W. Moys, Experimental Station, Summerland, B.C. Wherever practicable, fruits and vegetables are better when eaten raw, because cooking may decrease very considerably the ascorbic acid content of these foods. Vitamin C is not stored in the human body, so it is necessary to consume foods that contain this vitamin each day. Good sources are citrus fruits, tomatoes, cantaloupes, black currants, strawberries, and red raspberries. Other fruits, such as apples, can provide appreciable amounts of ascorbic acid if sufficient quantities are eaten.

As a rule fruits are not especially valuable sources of some other vitamins, among which are the vitamins in the vitamin B complex, including thiamine, riboflavin and pyridoxin. Prunes and plums are rich in both riboflavin and pyridoxin, and are thus notable exceptions among the fruits, with apricots and pears the next best sources in this group. After these fruits come peaches, apples, grapefruit and oranges, which are about equal to each other in value. Thiamine is best provided from pork, cereal foods and certain vegetables, although prunes again are an exception.

Vitamin A occurs in the form of carotene in fruits and vegetables. Apricots are one of the best sources, and prunes and yellow-fleshed peaches also contain large amounts. Plums contain only a small amount. Carotene is present in small amounts in apples, cherries, and oranges, but pears and grapefruit have very little. The average adult daily requirement for vitamin A can be secured from about four ounces of fresh, ripe apricots, or 12 ounces of fresh peaches or prunes. V

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# The Countrywoman

## Pine Song

Winter is in the pines; their singing falls  
In silver notes across the white-barred air  
And all the frowning urgency of care,  
The claustrophobia of duty's walls  
Is gone and only peace is everywhere.

—GILEAN DOUGLAS.



## Noting Progress

IF the actual presence of women in legislative bodies is required to arouse Canadian women from their apathy and to stir their interest and participation in politics and government, then 1953 can be marked down as a year in which definite progress was made.

Early in November, Mrs. Nancy Hodges of Victoria was appointed to fill the one British Columbia vacancy in the Senate of Canada, which has existed since 1949. Mrs. Hodges, a well-known journalist, was first elected to the British Columbia House of Legislature in 1941, was re-elected in 1945 and 1949, but defeated in the 1952 general election. She had the distinction of being appointed Speaker of the House—the first woman in the British Commonwealth of Nations to hold such office. It is worth more than passing note that British Columbia leads on the score of having had the greatest number of women members—seven elected, at various times. It was the first province whose government gave portfolio-rank in the Cabinet—the late Mrs. Tillie Rolston was made Minister of Education in 1952.

There are now five women in the Senate: four Liberals and one Progressive Conservative: Mrs. Cairine Wilson (Ont.); Mrs. Muriel McQueen Fergusson (N.B.); Mrs. Marianna Jodin (Que.); Mrs. Nancy Hodges (B.C.), and Mrs. Iva Fallis (Ont.). See The Country Guide of June for the story of the 24-year struggle for women to be declared to be "persons."

In the general election, August 10, 1953, four women—all from Ontario, were successful in being elected to the House of Commons. Three were Progressive Conservatives and one Liberal: Mrs. Ellen Fairclough, for Hamilton West (for a second term); Miss Sybil Bennett, for Halton; Miss Margaret Aitken, for York-Humber, and Mrs. Ann Shipley, for Timiskaming. There is a possibility of another, also from Ontario, if Mrs. Gordon Graydon, widow of the late Gordon Graydon, M.P., should decide to stand as candidate in the forthcoming by-election in Peel, formerly represented by her husband.

In an editorial item "Speaking of Progress," a writer gleefully commenting in the Globe and Mail (Toronto), of August 20, asked: "Could it be that it is the Westerners who now have become the moss-backs? Why were no women candidates elected elsewhere? Partly it was for the lack of them." There were 902 candidates for election to the Canadian House of Commons, of whom 39 were women—with 21 in Ontario, 11 in Quebec and seven in the other provinces. The editorial continued:

"Particularly significant was the small number of women put up as candidates in the three prairie provinces, which were the first to give them the vote (Manitoba, 1916), the first to elect them to the Legislature (Alberta, 1918), and the first to give them Cabinet rank (Irene Parlby, in Alberta, 1921). For all this just six women ran in the 48 prairie constituencies—every one of them on the Communist ticket."

"Westerners have long argued that they were tolerant while Ontario was prejudiced, progressive while Ontario was stuffy. But in this matter, the tables are turned. In Ontario women can get nominated by the major political parties and they can win. . . ."

We may well ponder these thoughts. The only way to secure representation in the Commons is to

*The close of the year causes us to pause  
and reflect upon some mileposts passed  
and to render tribute to those who have  
added to the enrichment of Canadian  
thought*

by AMY J. ROE

nominate, support and elect suitable candidates. That is for the people of the prairies to do for themselves.

But to return to the Senate! The West now has one woman representative occupying a seat in the Upper House. We congratulate Mrs. Nancy Hodges and commend the appointment. There is no woman senator for Alberta—whose five citizens did so much to secure that right, nor for either of the other prairie provinces. Should such an appointment be made, it will be by the Prime Minister. Observing so few women actively serving in legislatures or making an outstanding contribution to the political thought of the day, he may well be puzzled as to whom to name.

If you had the right to nominate a woman from the prairie provinces to a place in the Senate of Canada, who would you nominate—and why? Letters sent to The Countrywoman should be signed. The senders' names will be held in confidence, unless otherwise requested. The results will be tabulated by provinces and published.



Christmas calls for re-reading of the Old, Old Story.

## In Tribute

TO the many who knew her, Helen Douglas Morton's memory will be revered. Natural endowment of rare gifts of understanding, wit, grace and poise combined with wide experience, fitted her to become, as she did, a beloved and able representative of Canadian women.

She had for varying periods, made her home in three Canadian provinces, each seeming to leave a definite coloring to her turn of thought and expression. She lived a full and happy life in service through organizations concerned with education, health and welfare.

Born at Saint John, New Brunswick, in 1884, later as a young girl, following the death of her father, John Forrest, she went to live with an uncle, the late Dr. Daniel McIntyre, superintendent of Winnipeg schools. There she completed her high school and teachers' training and for a few years taught in Manitoba schools both in the city and in small towns. Later she travelled to Alberta and taught

school at several centers. In 1910 she married Ernest E. Morton of Vegreville and went homesteading with her husband, some 50 miles from the nearest railroad. Later the Mortons made their home in Vegreville and there on October 17, 1953, Mrs. Morton died, predeceased by her husband in March of this year. They are survived by two sons: Edmund F., of Vegreville, and Alexander C., of Calgary, and two grandsons.

Mrs. Morton served on the executive of many organizations: Canadian Cancer Society (Alberta Division), Alberta Red Cross, the Alberta Library Board, Navy League of Canada, Alberta School Trustees Association and the Canadian Association of Adult Education. Rural women's work held a high place in her regard. She served as a district director, vice-president and president of the Alberta Women's Institutes, doing much to encourage local branches in the formation of libraries and building up of the organization.

She served for a biennial term as president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. She attended three conferences of the Associated Country Women of the World in Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Toronto. She was leader of the party of Canadian rural women that journeyed to Denmark in 1950. On occasion she showed considerable skill in introducing a touch of humor over some knotty point or tense moment. She was both a good friend and wise counsellor and made many new friends through her overseas contacts. These she treasured and maintained a wide correspondence with women in many European countries, in Australia, Africa and Ceylon.

Convinced in her own mind that there was need of a simpler means of communication between peoples of many lands, she became an advocate for the teaching of basic English. She put her idea to the test in her home town by giving regular weekly lessons to two Chinese residents. During the past two years, failing health and partial loss of eyesight greatly curtailed her activities. She derived pleasure and comfort from the Reading Books supplied by the Canadian Institute for the Blind. She manifested her continuing interest in rural women's organizations by attending the A.C.W.W. meeting, last August.

Truly, she will be missed from her place.

## An Author's Bow

IN this issue we take pleasure in offering a "first story" for The Country Guide by a new writer. We hope that we may have others from the author, Bertha Danielson Johnson, who wrote The Curse of Manitou Wapow. She grew up in Manitoba and taught school before her marriage to a fisherman, Bud Johnson. They now make their home at Flin Flon. She knows the north and the life of its people.

Bertha Danielson Johnson has been writing and has had other stories and articles published in such magazines as Outdoor Canada, Northern Sportsman and Icelandic Canada. In 1951 she won first award and a cash prize of \$50, offered by the Women's Canadian Club of Winnipeg. This is an annual contest, which has been held for a number of years to encourage young and new writers to use Canadian themes and background as a basis for stories of a given length. Three judges are named each year by the Winnipeg Branch of the Canadian Authors' Association and their judgment is final. The presentation of awards is highlighted at an evening meeting of the Canadian authors.

The inter-lake locale has been chosen by Mrs. Johnson for this story. It is one which has an especial appeal for those who have Scandinavian blood in their veins. It was also chosen for the writing of fiction by other noted Canadian authors such as Martha Ostenso, Phillip Grove and Kristine Kristofferson, whose serial story "Tanya" was so popular with readers of The Country Guide. Our congratulations to Mrs. Johnson for a truly dramatic Canadian story.



by VINCENT EDWARDS

**M**ORE than one hundred years ago, on the eve of Christmas, the assistant pastor of a little church in Austria returned to the rectory with a joy that he could not keep to himself. Father Joseph Mohr had just visited a lowly peasant home where a baby boy had been born, and the happiness of the parents seemed to reflect all the rapture of the season of the Holy Nativity. The humble priest was so carried away by his feelings that he was inspired to write some verses.

His poem began *Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!* As he continued Father Mohr became certain it would make an appropriate carol for the Christmas service in his Oberndorf church. However, words can't be sung without music, so he must find somebody who could write a tune.

Suddenly, he thought of Franz Gruber, the church organist. He was a gifted young musician, and could rearrange scores with no trouble at all. Father Mohr went to him at once.

"Good Franz," said he, "you must help me out. Here's a carol that we can sing on Christmas Day—if you will only write the music for it!"

Franz Gruber shook his head. He was not used to composing tunes, and even if he had been, this was such short notice. But he wanted to please his young pastor, so he took the lines home, promising to have a try at it. The next morning he was back with a score for the words. Father Mohr was musical, too, and the two men rehearsed the carol together. Mice had eaten away the bellows of the church organ so they had to be satisfied with a guitar accompaniment.

The carol *Silent Night* was first sung at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf on Christmas Day, 1818. Father Mohr sang tenor, and Franz Gruber, bass. The worshippers seemed highly

delighted. Both author and composer would have been astounded if they could have known of the tens of thousands who would some day come to know and love their simple carol.

An organ repairman, who happened to be present, carried the words and music back to his home town in the Austrian Tyrol. There, the four little Strasser children with voices like angels quickly picked it up and sang it at the big trade fair in Leipzig. It wasn't long before *Silent Night* was known all over Austria and Germany.

When emigrants struck out for America, they carried this carol along with them as part of the Christmas tradition of their homeland. Soon it had a world-wide popularity, being loved for the English version quite as much as the original German. When Madam Schumann-Heink was at the height of her fame, vast audiences, in the midst of the holiday season, would be moved to tears by the magic of her voice as she sang *Silent Night*.

Exactly fifty years after Father Mohr wrote *Silent Night*, another clergyman was seized by the same kind of lyrical rapture. It was in December, 1868. Phillips Brooks, the young rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Philadelphia, always found a kind of thrilling joy in the Yuletide.

Now there came back to him a vivid remembrance of the Holy Land which he had visited only three years before. He saw again the mysterious beauty of Bethlehem, the Saviour's birthplace, as it lay bathed in starlight under the peaceful Palestine sky.

A program for the Sunday School children had been planned, and the rector thought he would try to write a song for the boys and girls, telling all about his precious memory. As a versatile dominie, he could dash off verses at the drop of a hat, so it did

## = = and other Christmas pieces

not take him long to write the Christmas lines he had in mind.

But he also faced the problem that had puzzled Father Mohr. Words are one thing, but music is something else. Whom could he get to write a tune for his poem?

Then he thought of his good friend, Lewis Redner, the church organist.

When Phillips Brooks showed his lines to that gentleman, he quipped, "Now if you will only write music for my words, we'll call the tune St. Louis!" (It is by "St. Louis" that the familiar hymn-tune is known to this day!)

Mr. Redner took the verses home and finally went to bed, feeling quite

discouraged. He had tried and tried, but no music came to him. Then he woke up in the middle of the night with a beautiful tune ringing in his mind. He rose at once and put the notes down on paper.

It goes without saying that the carol was popular with the Sunday School children. Ever since that far off happy day, its popularity has grown through the years. Nowadays tens of thousands join in singing it during the Christmas season, and there is hardly a hymnal which does not contain *O Little Town of Bethlehem*—with words by Phillips Brooks, and music by Lewis Redner.

Once again a pastor and an organist had collaborated and achieved immortality.

## Deck the Rooms

**G**ETTING ready for Christmas is half the fun. For weeks, the children have been talking of the Christmas concert, Santa Claus, Christmas trees and new toys, dolls and electric trains. Secrets are whispered back and forth, and mysterious parcels are wrapped. Then, as the wonderful day draws near, it is time to dress up the house.

The simplest decorations are often the most effective. Since styles change even in Christmas decorations it is wise to refrain from buying expensive or very ornate Christmas dressings. Rather get colorful but inexpensive ornaments from the five-and-ten. With imagination they can be combined with greens and ornaments you already possess to make original and lovely holiday dressings.

Gay and colorful table centers or decorations for the mantelpiece are easily made. Plan them around a central theme or to tell a story. Keep the lines simple and the completed decoration in good proportion to the size of the table and room. A low arrangement for a table is important. Mantel decorations should fit in with the pictures or mirror over the mantel and any ornaments that adorn the mantelpiece.

A winter snow scene, Santa Claus and his sleigh, a bowl of fruit chosen to match the color scheme of the room or a centerpiece composed of candles, tree ornaments and greenery is effective. The story of the shepherds, the angels or the Nativity may be more difficult to depict but is worth trying if you are artistically inclined.

Dried weeds or willow branches, used as is, painted or gilded; white or dyed cotton batting, colored candles, ribbons, Christmas tree balls and other ornaments, evergreen sprays and fruit make colorful and inexpensive beginnings. For the base of the centerpiece use a mirror, a per-

fectly flat plate or a cross section of an old tree trunk. Drill holes in one end of this wooden slab to hold candles and polish it with furniture wax until it glistens.

A pretty snow scene is easily made on this slab base, with a ten-inch willow branch, a few irregular stones or small cinder clusters picked up along the railroad track, several small evergreen sprays and three celluloid animals, preferably sheep. These figures are about three inches high and cost only a few cents. Fit the branch into one of the holes bored in the base then bend it gently until it arches over the centerpiece. Place the cinders at the base of the branch and arrange the evergreen around them. Put one of the sheep on the rocks and arrange the remaining two so they appear to be foraging nearby in the snow. The snow may be cotton batting or dried soapsuds. To add more glitter shellac the animals and cinders and scatter gold paint dust over them before they dry.

Gilded or silvered branches make a novel bouquet. Dip dried weeds or stalks of wheat, oats or barley into aluminum or gilt paint and leave to

(Please turn to page 36)



Soapsuds snow adds a fairy touch to your tree.



# SENSATIONAL COFFEE SALE

**25¢ OFF**  
ON THE  
LARGE  
JAR

**10¢ OFF**  
ON THE  
REGULAR  
JAR

**25¢ OFF!**

**10¢ OFF!**

**Special "Get-Acquainted" Offer!**  
Look for these money-saving labels — while supplies last!

**INSTANT MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE**  
GOOD TO THE LAST DROP

**INSTANT MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE**  
GOOD TO THE LAST DROP

A Product of General Foods

**Amazing New Coffee!** Not a powder! Not a grind! But millions of tiny "FLAVOR BUDS" of real coffee . . . ready to burst instantly into that famous MAXWELL HOUSE FLAVOR!

**Save up to \$1.25 on your coffee bill**

The large jar of Instant Maxwell House makes about as much coffee as 3 pounds of ground coffee — yet costs about \$1.00 less. This special allowance saves you 25¢ more. So your total saving is about \$1.25!

The regular jar of Instant Maxwell House makes about as much coffee as one pound of ground coffee — yet costs about 30¢ less. This special allowance saves you 10¢ more. So your total saving is about 40¢!

**100%**  
**PURE COFFEE—**  
**NO FILLERS ADDED!**

Utterly unlike old-style "instants" — just as quick-to-fix, but tastes so deliciously different! Don't delay — get your jar at your grocer's, today!

The only instant coffee with that  
**GOOD-TO-THE-LAST-DROP** flavor!





# All the best

## ... in this glorious MAGIC Fruit Cake!

Bring it out proudly when friends and family  
congregate... your Magic Christmas cake!  
Sumptuous with fruits and nutmeats... candied peel,  
pineapple, icing... the most festive yet!

All year round, make your cakes tender and  
perfect-flavored with pure Magic Baking Powder.  
No waste of costly ingredients—and Magic costs  
less than 1¢ per average baking!

### MAGIC CHRISTMAS CAKE

2 cups seedless raisins  
1 cup currants  
1½ cups separated seeded  
raisins  
1½ cups drained red mor-  
schino or candied  
cherries (or a mixture of  
red cherries and green  
candied cherries)  
1 cup almonds  
1½ cups slivered or  
chopped mixed candied  
peels and citron

1 cup cut-up pitted dates  
½ cup cut-up candied  
pineapple or other  
candied fruits  
1 tbsp. finely-chopped  
candied ginger  
3 cups sifted pastry flour  
or 2⅔ cups sifted hard-  
wheat flour  
1½ tps. Magic Baking  
Powder  
¾ tsp. salt

1½ tps. ground cinnamon  
½ tsp. grated nutmeg  
½ tsp. ground ginger  
¼ tsp. ground mace  
¼ tsp. ground cloves  
1 cup butter  
1¼ cups lightly-pocked  
brown sugar  
6 eggs  
¼ cup molasses  
⅓ cup cold strong coffee

Wash and dry the seedless raisins and currants. Wash and dry the seeded raisins, if necessary, and cut into halves. Cut cherries into halves. Blanch the almonds and cut into halves. Prepare the dates, peels and citron, candied pineapple or other fruits, and ginger. Sift together 3 times, the flour, Magic Baking Powder, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, mace and cloves; add prepared fruits and nuts, a few at a time, mixing until fruits are separated and coated with flour. Cream the butter; gradually blend in the sugar. Add unbeaten eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition; stir in molasses. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture alternately with coffee, combining thoroughly after each addition. Turn batter into a deep 8-inch square cake pan that has been lined with three layers of heavy paper and the top layer greased with butter; spread evenly. Bake in a slow oven 300°, about 2½ to 3 hours. Let cake stand in its pan on a cake cooler until cold. Store in a crock, or wrap in waxed paper and store in a tin. A few days before cake is to be cut, top with almond paste and ornamental icing; just before cutting, cake may be decorated attractively.



## Festive Fare

by LILLIAN VIGRASS



Turkey with all the trimmings makes a resplendent buffet dinner.

**F**OOD at Christmas time is exciting. Not only are there Christmas and New Year's dinners to look forward to, but the entire holiday season is a time of friendship and festivities.

You will want to serve sandwiches, either hot or cold, with something hot to drink for an informal gathering. A buffet lunch or supper may be planned for a group too large to seat for a full course meal.

Turkey roasted and sliced, when cold, makes a delightful beginning for a buffet supper. With it serve cranberries—of course, pickles, buttered buns, a salad and special Christmas sweets. If the crowd is large include several salads and extend the turkey with cold sliced ham, chicken, tongue or salami sausage.

Dress up your holiday foods with colorful garnishes, cranberry jellies and sprigs of holly, then sit back and wait for expressions of approval.

Sandwiches may be hot or cold, large or small, depending on the occasion and the appetites of the people you serve. If you would like a change from the usual type of sandwiches serve buttered slices of Christmas breads with cheese wedges, pickles, olives and inch lengths of sausage, bacon or wedges of cold meat on the end of toothpicks. Hot chocolate, coffee or fruit punch go well with all.

You will have many of your own ideas, without which Christmas just would not be Christmas. But add a few new touches from the ideas here.

### Sandwich Loaf

Fillings:

Flaked salmon and salad dressing  
Egg salad  
Relish and cheese spread  
Ground ham and cream cheese  
Pickle relish and butter

Using an unsliced loaf of bread remove top and side crusts from loaf. Slice into 6 lengthwise slices. Spread the 5 fillings generously between the 6 slices, rearranging into a loaf. Remove end crusts. Spread five outer edges of loaf with cream cheese, whipped until fluffy and tinted with food coloring if desired. Garnish with olive slices and pickled onions. Cut at the table in approximately ½-inch slices—slicing crosswise as a loaf would ordinarily be sliced. Serves 14.

### Cranberry-Orange Salad

2 c. raw cran- berries	1½ c. apple juice
1 small orange	1½ T. gelatin
1 c. sugar	½ c. cold water
	Dash of salt

Put cranberries and orange, rind and all, through the food chopper, using the medium blade. Mix well with sugar and let stand overnight. Soak gelatin in cold water 5 minutes. Heat apple juice, add gelatin and stir until dissolved. Stir in orange-cranberry mixture. Pour into individual molds, rinsed in cold water or brushed with oil. Chill until firm. Unmold and serve with salad dressing, with sliced turkey or chicken, or chicken salad. Serves 6 to 8.

### Christmas Bread

1 pkg. dry yeast	3 c. sifted flour
¼ c. lukewarm water	2 eggs
1 c. milk	½ c. chopped nuts
½ c. sugar	1 c. candied orange peel
½ c. melted butter	1 c. candied lemon peel
½ tsp. salt	1 c. raisins
1 tsp. crushed cardamom seed, if desired	½ c. icing sugar
	2 T. cream

Mix yeast, lukewarm water and 1 tsp. sugar; let stand. Scald milk; add ½ c. sugar, melted butter, salt and cardamom seed, if used. Stir until lukewarm. Add 1 c. flour and beat. Add yeast mixture, lightly beaten eggs and 1½ c. flour. Knead. If necessary, more flour may be added while kneading. Let rise until double in bulk. Mix ⅓ c. flour with fruits and nuts; add and knead again. Shape into 2 loaves. Place in buttered loaf pan 9 by 5 inches. Let rise until double in size. Bake at 350° F. about 50 minutes. Brush with melted butter. Cool, then remove from pan and frost with sugar and cream glaze.

### Chicken and Apple Salad

4 tsp. lemon juice	1 c. diced celery
1 tsp. salt	1½ c. apples
4 T. salad oil	3 eggs
2 c. chicken	¼ c. salad dressing

Combine lemon juice, salad oil and salt. Mix chicken, which has been cut into 1-inch pieces then measured, diced celery and apples which have been sliced or cut in chunks, with red skins left on. Let stand in salad oil mixture for 20 minutes. Hard cook the eggs. Remove shells and chop coarsely. Add with salad dressing to chicken mixture. Serve on individual beds of lettuce, garnished with stuffed olives. Serve 8.



# ... for the Holiday

Reflect the warmth, gaiety and excitement of the Christmas season with special festive foods and garnishes

THE Christmas breads, tarts, cakes and cookies that make up the dessert course for the buffet dinner or party may be simple or fancy, small and dainty or filling as you wish. But they should round out your party menu to make a meal your guests will remember.

Dress up your favorite sugar cookies or ice-box cookies with candied fruits, nuts, coconut, tinted sugar and colorful candies, or cut them in Santa Claus, Christmas tree and star shapes to please the children. Then fill your cookie jars to overflowing by making a few of these new cookies, too.

For a buffet supper, mincemeat squares or tarts will be easier to handle than the usual mince pie. The Christmas bread is similar to that served in Norway on Christmas Eve and the crescent cookies come from Sweden. Others are old-fashioned Christmas cookies that taste as good as ever.

## Mincemeat Squares

- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 1/2 c. sifted flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 c. shortening
- 1 1/4 c. rolled oats
- 2 c. mincemeat

Combine brown sugar, flour and salt. Cut in shortening until mixture is crumbly. Add rolled oats and mix well. Put half mixture in square 9-inch pan and pat down well. Spread with mincemeat. Sprinkle remaining mixture and pat down. Bake in moderate oven at 350° F. for 30 minutes. Cut in two-inch squares.

## Holiday Fruit Cookies

- 1 c. shortening
- 2 c. brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 c. sour milk
- 2 c. dates
- 3 1/2 c. sifted flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 c. broken pecans
- 2 c. candied cherries

Cream shortening and brown sugar. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Stir in sour milk. Sift together salt, soda and flour. Add to creamed mixture. Add broken pecans or other nut meats, cherries, cut in half, and cut-up dates. Chill 1 hour. Drop by teaspoon on lightly greased baking sheets. Bake at 350° F. for 15 minutes.

## Honey Orange Crisps

- 3/4 c. fat
- 1 egg
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. honey
- 2 T. orange juice
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 1 T. orange peel
- 3 c. sifted flour

Cream fat and sugar until light. Beat egg and add with honey and spices. Mix in orange flavors. Add flour slowly, mixing to smooth dough. Chill, roll and cut out with fancy shape cutters. Bake on baking sheet in moderate oven, 350° F. for 8 to 10 minutes. Trim with icing and decorate with cut gumdrops.

## Dark Secrets

- 4 egg whites
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 3 c. corn flakes
- 1 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 tsp vanilla

Combine egg whites and salt and beat until foamy.

Gradually add sugar, beat until stiff. Fold in corn flakes, chocolate bits and vanilla. Drop from teaspoon onto buttered baking sheet. Bake at 350° F. for 15 minutes.

## Christmas Wreaths

- 1/2 c. butter
- 1/4 c. brown sugar
- 1 c. nuts or coconut
- 1 egg, separated
- 1 c. sifted flour
- Raspberry jam

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in egg yolk. Add flour. Form into small balls. Dip into egg white and remove with fork. Drop into chopped nuts or coconut. Place on buttered cookie sheet. Press hole in center with a thimble. Bake in very slow, 300° F. oven. After 8 minutes of baking press in center again and continue baking 10 minutes. Cool slightly. Remove from sheet. Fill center with jam. Makes 4 dozen.

## Melting Moments

- 1/2 c. butter
- 5 T. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. almond flavoring
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 c. sifted flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder

Cream butter, sugar, almond flavoring and salt until very light and fluffy. Combine with salt, flour and baking powder. Chill. Roll teaspoonful into a ball. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Press flat with fork dipped in flour. Bake in moderate 350° F. oven 8 to 10 minutes or until edges are browned. Cool before removing from pan.

## Nut Crescents

- 1/4 c. butter
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 T. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/3 c. sifted flour
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 1/2 c. sugar

Cream together butter and sugar. Add egg, milk and vanilla. Sift dry ingredients and stir into butter mixture. Spread dough very thin (and evenly) on bottom of buttered, inverted 8 by 8-inch pans. Sprinkle with nuts and sugar. Mark in strips 3/4 inch by 4 inches. Bake one at a time 10 to 12 minutes in moderately slow, 325° F. oven. While hot cut into strips and shape over rolling pin. If strips become too brittle to shape return to oven and reheat to soften.



Swedish carved toys and a wooden tree from Poland add a festive note to the holiday table.

## Make economical Vegetable-Cheese Platter with garden vegetables and smooth-melting VELVEETA

Your family will enjoy the rich yet mild cheddar cheese flavor of Velveeta, in main dishes, sandwiches and snacks. Velveeta spreads, slices, melts perfectly. It's nourishing, too—and digestible as milk itself. Be sure to get genuine Velveeta—the quality cheese food.

1/2-lb. pkg., 1-lb. or 2-lb. loaf.



## VEGETABLE-CHEESE PLATTER

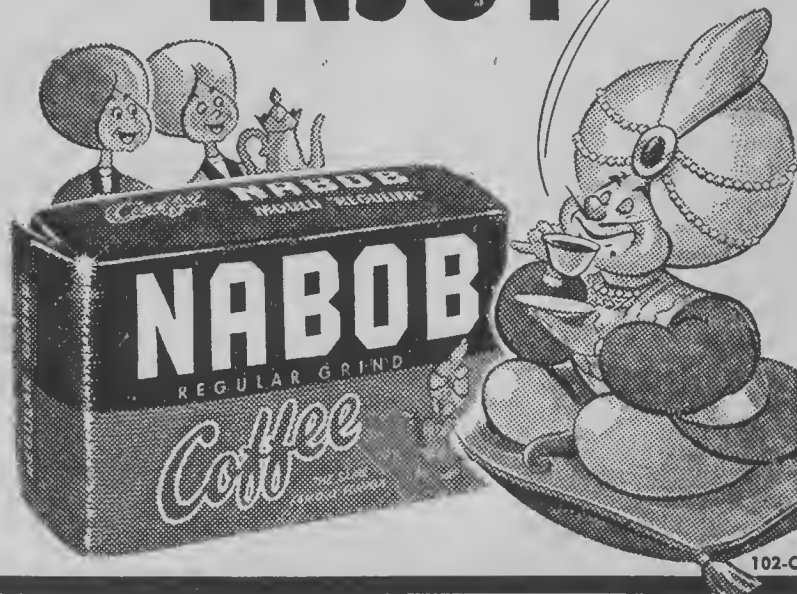
- Cooked cauliflower
- Cooked Julienne string beans
- Broiled tomato halves
- 1/2-lb. Velveeta
- Salt, pepper
- Butter or Parkay Margarine

In top of double boiler, melt 1/2-lb. Velveeta (use 1/2-lb. pkg. or cut this portion from

2-lb. loaf of Velveeta). Gradually stir in 1/3 cup of milk. Add salt and pepper. Place hot cauliflower in center of a round platter, surround with string beans and tomato halves. Pour Velveeta sauce over cauliflower. Serve at once.

## Velveeta...made by KRAFT

# NABOB HAS THE FLAVOR MOST PEOPLE IN THE WEST ENJOY



## Deck the Rooms

Continued from page 32

dry slowly. Stalks that have been dyed or painted red, yellow or green are attractive, too. Place them in a vase with a small amount of evergreen or use them to add color.

For the center of interest on the mantelpiece make an oversize candle using the cardboard tube taken from the center of a roll of waxed paper. Cover with colored cellophane. Add a "flame" made of gold or silver paper and attach stars, sequins or colorful stickers to the lower half of the candle. Use scotch tape or glue the candle to the centerpiece base and surround it with colored ball ornaments, fruit or cones and greenery.

An inexpensive but effective way to decorate this year's Christmas tree is with soapsuds "snow." Piled on the branches it seems to create an effect of light and shadow, the color contrasts of tree and ornaments are accented by its whiteness and under artificial lights it glistens like real snow. It is easy to apply and there is no muss.

Whip up the soapsuds with the rotary egg beater using a minimum amount of water. Beat until the suds are dry and the consistency of whipped cream or meringue. Spread on the "snow" with a spoon so it will form a thick layer on each branch. It will dry firm in a few hours and stay put for weeks without shedding. If you wish sprinkle with sequins or sparkle dust before the snow dries then decorate the tree with balls, lights or tiny bows of cellophane, crepe paper or ribbon. Top the tree with Santa Claus or an angel.—L. V.

## Games for Fun

by DORA E. TREW

GAMES just naturally seem a part of the Christmas festivities. Choose activities that are fun and in which old or young can join.

Start with a game right at the dinner table. Choose a simple one, such as Air Pictures, for no one feels very active after so much delicious food. To play, each one thinks of a gift he received. Then someone draws a picture of his gift in the air with a fork or finger. The others try to guess what it is. The first to guess correctly takes his turn. Other subjects may be Christmas food or something visible in the living room.

After the dishes are out of the way, everyone from Grandma to wee George seats himself at the dining-room table. The group seated at one side has a large-sized penny. With their hands hidden under the table the penny is passed from one to another until the opposing captain calls, "Jenkins says hands UP." All the hands, clenched, including the one holding the penny, are raised in the air. The captain says, "Jenkins says hands DOWN," and down come all the hands upon the table with a loud bang, the fingers outstretched. One of the palms hides the penny.

To trick the players the opponent may use other wording. For instance, he may say, "James says hands down," or "Jenkins says hands sideways." Don't move until the proper call is given.

The captain then tries to eliminate the hands that do *not* hide the penny. When he points at a hand the owner removes it. If the captain does not point to the hand covering the penny until the very last he has won and his side has a turn. Should he uncover the penny too soon, the same side plays again. The captain is changed each time. If the penny is dropped it is handed over to the other side to play.

After a little rest try an active game. Go-go-go is a game that requires a long living room. One person stands at one end of the room, the other players at the opposite wall. With his face hidden against the wall, the one person calls, "Go-go-go," for as long as he likes, but at least three times. As soon as he stops calling he turns around quickly to try to catch sight of someone moving. The players try to run up with stealthy footsteps and touch the caller, but they must not be caught moving when he turns around. If seen, his name is called and he starts again. The first to touch the caller takes over and the game starts again.

Another active game is called Animals. Have ready a stack of small cards on which are written the names of animals. Use a different animal for each player and make seven cards of each. Mix the cards so that no guest is likely to get two the same. Give each guest seven cards. The object is for each player to get a matched set of cards—all seven with the same animal's

name on each. This is done by each player trading cards with the other players, one for one, two for two, keeping the cards upside down as he trades. No one is to tell what he is trading or what he keeps. The one who first completes a set wins.

A few rounds of Musical Hats is a lot of fun. It is similar to musical chairs but the players, who are seated in a circle, do not move. Each person except one, wears a hat—paper party hats are suggested. When the music starts each passes his hat quickly to his left-hand neighbor. They are kept rotating until the music stops. Everyone puts on the hat he holds, no matter how amusing it looks. The one without a hat leaves the circle and a hat is removed from the game. Continue until only one contender—the winner—remains.

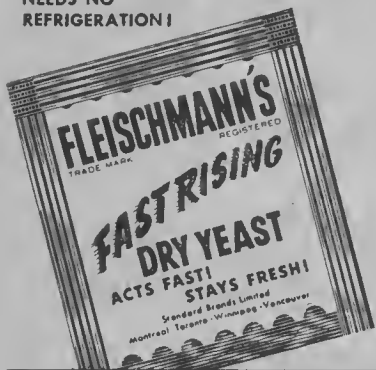
As for a pencil game have ready some brown wrapping paper circles with fluted edges that look like mince pies. At the top is written *mince pie*. Everyone is asked to write down as many words as he can using the letters in the two words. After ten minutes the lists are read aloud in turn. If anyone has a similar word he calls out and the reader and all others having that word must stroke it out. The next player reads his list of remaining words and again similar words crossed out. When finished each player counts his remaining words, counting five marks for each word. Highest score wins.

Santa is a game that is good for many a laugh. The object is to try to count up to 50 or 100 without a mistake. For each seven or multiple of seven the word "Santa" is substituted (Please turn to page 38)

## 3 Dessert Treats from One Basic Dough!

*It's easy with wonderful active dry yeast!*

NEEDS NO REFRIGERATION!



Say goodbye to humdrum meals! Turn one tender-rich sweet dough into these three yummy dessert treats! It takes no time at all—with the amazing Fleischmann's Fast Rising Dry Yeast! This lively, zesty yeast *acts fast*—gives perfect risings every time. If you bake at home, buy several packages now.

### BASIC FRUIT DOUGH

#### Prepare

- 1½ cups bleached or sultana raisins, washed and dried
- ½ cup finely-cut candied citron
- ½ cup broken walnuts or pecans

#### Scald

- 2 cups milk

Remove from heat and cool to lukewarm.

In the meantime, measure into a small bowl

- ½ cup lukewarm water
- 2 teaspoons granulated sugar

and stir until sugar is dissolved.

Sprinkle with contents of

- 2 envelopes Fleischmann's Fast Rising Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

Sift together three times

- 4 cups once-sifted bread flour
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon grated nutmeg

- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves

- ¼ teaspoon ground mace

Cream in a large bowl

- ½ cup butter or margarine

- ¾ cup lightly-packed brown sugar

Gradually beat in

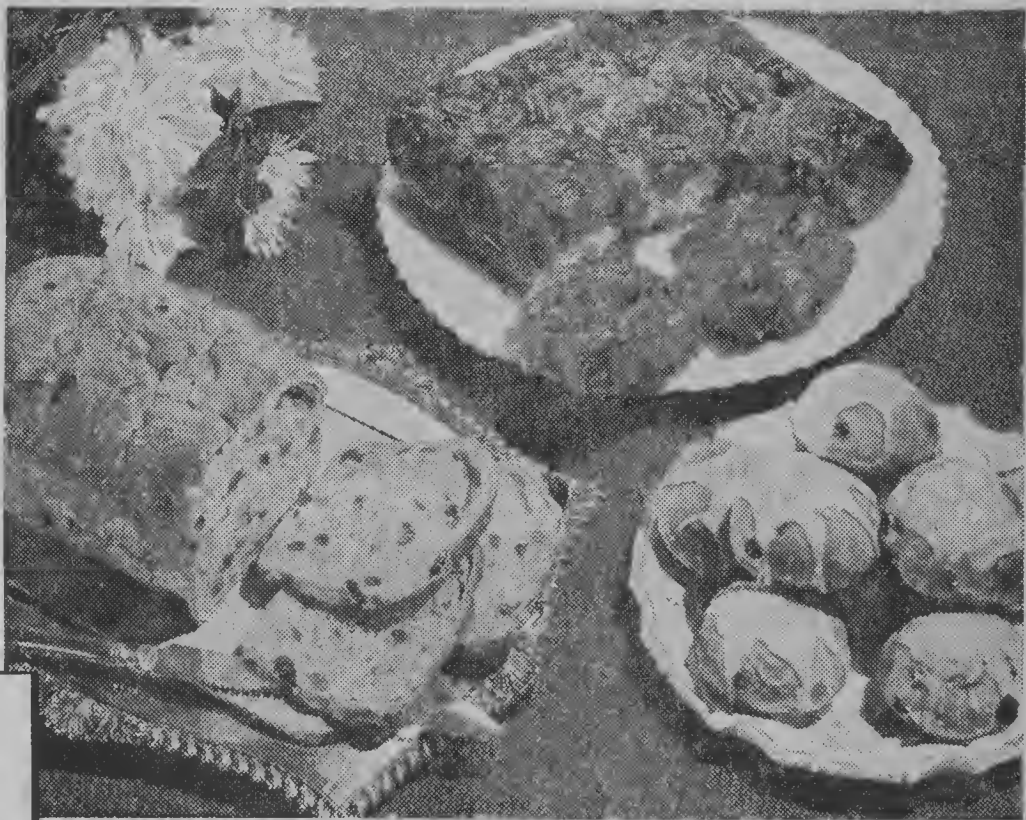
- 1 well-beaten egg

Stir in lukewarm milk, dissolved yeast and sifted dry ingredients; beat until smooth and elastic. Mix in prepared fruits and nuts.

Work in

- 3½ cups (about) once-sifted bread flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in a greased bowl and grease top of dough. Cover and set dough in a warm place, free from draught, and let rise until doubled in bulk. Turn out dough on lightly-floured board and knead lightly until smooth. Divide into 3 equal portions and finish as follows:



#### 1. Chop Suey Loaf

Knead ¼ cup well-drained cut-up maraschino cherries into one portion of the dough. Shape into a loaf and fit into a greased bread pan about 4½ by 8½ inches. Grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderate oven, 350°, about 40 minutes. Brush top of hot loaf with soft butter or margarine.

#### 2. Butterscotch Fruit Buns

Cream together ½ cup butter or margarine, ½ teaspoon grated orange rind, ¼ cup corn syrup and 1 cup lightly-packed brown sugar. Spread about a quarter of this mixture in a greased 9-inch square cake pan; sprinkle with ¼ cup pecan halves. Roll out one portion of dough on lightly-floured board into a 9-inch square. Spread

almost to the edges with remaining brown sugar mixture; roll up loosely, jelly-roll fashion, and cut into 9 slices. Place each piece, a cut side up, in prepared pan. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderate oven, 350°, about 30 minutes. Stand pan of buns on a cake cooler for 5 minutes before turning out.

#### 3. Frosted Fruit Buns

Cut one portion of dough into 18 equal-sized pieces. Shape each piece into a smooth round ball. Place, well apart, on a greased cookie sheet. Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderate oven, 350°, about 15 minutes. Immediately after baking, spread buns with a frosting made by combining 1 cup once-sifted icing sugar, 4 teaspoons milk and a few drops almond extract.



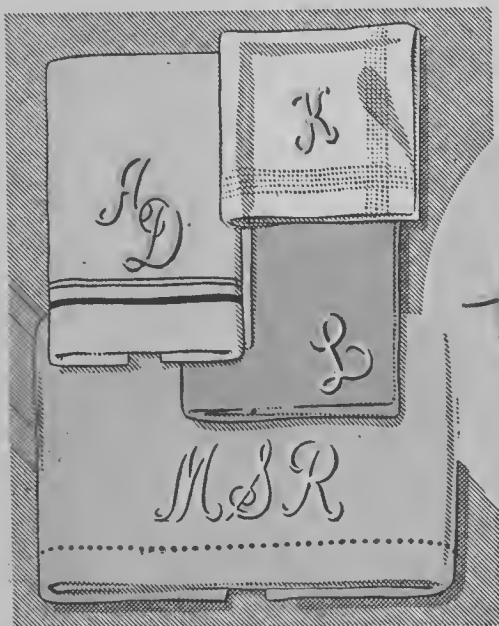
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Design No. 4512



Design No. 4042

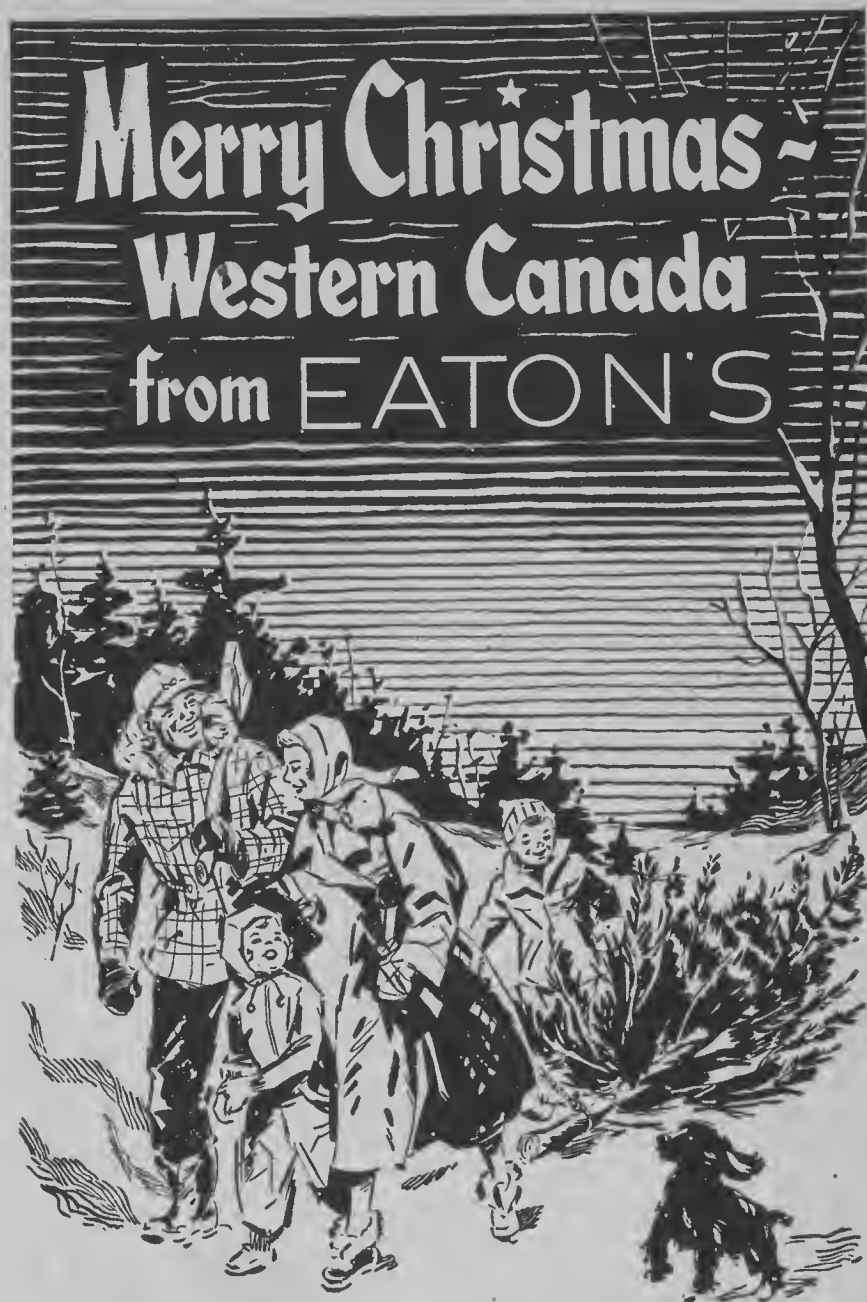
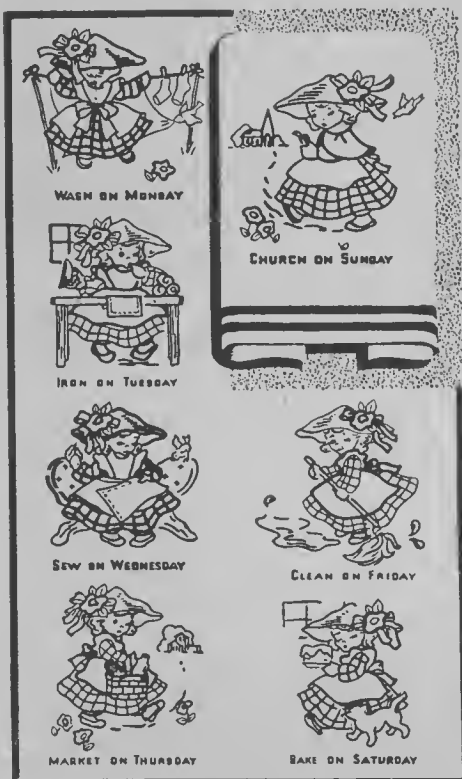
No. 4042—Transfer designs of the complete alphabet in script in three different sizes—2½, 2 and 1½ inches high. There are three transfers in each size or a total of nine transfers of each of the 26 letters of the alphabet. They are especially suitable for household linens, lending an expensive look

to towels, sheets and pillow cases. Use the letters singly, in pairs or threes. Size and position depend on your personal choice. Use six-strand embroidery cotton or floss. Design No. 4042 contains a full alphabet, three repeats of each of three sizes in script writing. Price 25 cents.

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No. 4048—Transfer designs which will brighten your kitchen or make pleasing gifts, to embroider in bright colors on purchased or home-sewn kitchen towels. Seven day-of-the-week motifs are done in an amusing manner featuring different household chores for each day. Two transfers of each motif means you may make one set to give and one to keep. For a novel set of kitchen pictures, embroider one or more of these gaily colored designs on white or cream linen and frame in a brightly colored frame. Use six-strand embroidery cotton. Instructions given on envelope back. Design No. 4048 is 25 cents.

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Simmer first 5 ingredients 5 minutes,  
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## Games for Fun

Continued from page 36

for the number. The players are seated in a circle and they count quickly turn by turn. If anyone fails to say Santa at the right time all must start over again.

The first player says one, the second two, the third three, and so on to seven. The seventh player says "Santa." The next says eight, nine, ten, and so on to 14. Instead of 14 "Santa" is said, since 14 is two times seven. Go on—15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, then "Santa" for 21 or three times seven. Continue until 50 or 100 is reached without a mistake.

An old-fashioned spelling match with a different twist will please the not-so-young as well as the school gang. The word to spell will be simple but the vowels must be illustrated instead of said. When spelling a word raise the right hand for "a," the left for "e," point to the eye for "i," point to a rounded mouth for "o," and point to the leader for "u." The leader gives everyone in turn a word to spell. If a vowel is said or the word misspelled the player is out. For practice everyone might try spelling his name, then his neighbor's. The last one out is the winner.

Balloon games always seem suitable at Christmas. Each player is given a balloon to blow up. A string is placed across the room with half the players on each side of it. The two teams stand back a foot from the string and, starting at the word "Go," try to blow their balloons on to the floor in enemy territory. The score is ten points for each balloon on the floor on the opposing side. If it touches the floor on his own side, the team loses five points. A burst balloon is not replaced. Play ten minutes then add scores.

A nice way to wind up the evening is to bring in a surprise packet. This packet has been wrapped with as many coverings as there are guests and a different name put on each cover. Have someone come to the door and knock. Surprised, you receive the parcel, look at the name and say, "Oh, this is for Mabel." Mabel opens it, finds the second wrapping has Jim's name on it, the third has Mother's. By this time everyone is entering into the fun of it. Finally the last one comes to an honored guest or to a pleased Grandpa or Grandma. Inside is a suitable gift.

## Christmas Quiz

HAVING a Christmas party? Find out how much your guests know about the festival season with this quiz. Or try it on the family on Christmas Eve.

1. Who is the patron saint of Christmas? St. Cyprian. St. Chrysostom. St. Nicholas?

2. Who said: "A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!"?

3. Where is Christmas Island?

4. Who wrote: "Most all the time, the whole year round, there ain't no flies on me. But jest 'fore Christmas I'm as good as 1 kin be!"?

5. In your portion of the Christmas pudding you may find one of these miniature souvenirs. What does fortune hold in store for you if you re-

ceive a: (a) button; (b) thimble; (c) horseshoe; (d) silver coin?

6. When was Christmas first celebrated as a distinct festival in the religious calendar?

7. "There came wise men from the east to Jerusalem . . . and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto Him gifts." Do you know what the gifts were that they brought?

8. What is the origin of Boxing Day?

9. Who wrote these two carols?

(a) "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The Little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head."

(b) "Hark! the herald-angels sing Glory to the new-born King."

Here's a hint. Their composers both had a religious sect named after them.

10. If your present on the Christmas tree is a book on chronology, you would learn: (a) the science of computing dates; (b) to understand scientific time measurement; (c) to tell fortunes.

11. And here is a conundrum we found in a Christmas cracker.

Jane and Jonathan are brother and sister. Jonathan says he has as many brothers as he has sisters, and Jane states that she has twice as many brothers as sisters. How big is the family? (See answers on page 47).

## Bazaar Novelty

by MARY McVEY



A Christmas card basket.

A HEXAGON-SHAPED basket made from Christmas cards is a very good way to use some of those lovely, colorful cards, which you may have on hand from last year. Its making may prove to be an interesting and useful pastime for a shut-in.

For accuracy, cut a pattern, so that the finished article is symmetrical. The side-sections are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the bottom and flare to 5 inches wide at the top. Cut six sections, using the pattern as a guide for each. Gently curve the top of each section. Do a blanket stitch around the edges of the sections, with any chosen color of silkoline.

Make a bottom for the basket from two large cards, opened. With a pencil trace six sides, each  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Check to see that it fits the side-sections and then cut. Blanket stitch with the same color of silkoline. Sew the side sections together with a running stitch. They take a hexagon shape. Now, sew the bottom into place. The result is a neat and colorful basket for trinkets or fancy work. It also could provide a novelty item for a bazaar table sale. If you wish to make it more durable, give the sections a coat of clear shellac, before doing the stitching of edges.



# "With Parties in Mind"

No. 4486—A softly tailored dress to make in wool or a new synthetic material. The new slim skirt has a back flare; the yoke and imitation pockets add interest to the bodice; and the set-in sleeves with cuffs may be short or three-quarter length. Choice of collar style shown or mandarin collar. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires  $3\frac{3}{4}$  yards 39-inch fabric or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards 54-inch jersey. Price 35 cents.

No. 4428—The favored empire waistline dress has a skirt of 108 inches with unpressed pleats at side fronts and short or three-quarter unmounted sleeves. Buttoned bands of self fabric trim the neck and high-rising waistline. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires  $3\frac{3}{4}$  yards 39-inch or  $2\frac{3}{4}$  yards 54-inch fabric. Price 50 cents.

No. 3890—A party style for the junior miss and misses. The skirt is gathered at the waistline. It flares to 101 inches and has two front pockets. The smoothly darted bodice has a wide V-neckline bound and tied with a light or dark color. The short sleeves are gathered partly. Sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 years. Size 14 requires  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yards 35-inch,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  yards 44-inch fabric. Price 35 cents.

No. 4463—How pretty you will look in this soft demure blouse with its high or low round neckline. The bodice and sleeves are gathered to a round yoke, the collar is small and rounded and the sleeves are three-quarter or short. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires  $2\frac{3}{4}$  yards 39-inch or  $1\frac{3}{4}$  yards 54-inch jersey. Price 35 cents.

No. 4253—A soft and flattering skirt, measuring 128 inches, has unpressed pleats all around and detachable cummerbund belt. Make it in a rich brocade for evening; a wool for afternoons. Waist sizes 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 inches (12 to 20 years). Size 28 requires  $3\frac{3}{4}$  yards 39-inch or  $2\frac{3}{4}$  yards 54-inch fabric; cummerbund  $\frac{1}{4}$  yard any fabric width and  $\frac{1}{4}$  yard featherboning. Price 35 cents.

No. 4321—A skirt, blouse and cummerbund combination for the junior miss or misses. Make it in lace and taffeta for evening, matched cottons for morning or a pretty rayon for afternoon. Blouse has high neck with small collar and no sleeves. Skirt has unpressed pleats and cummerbund. Sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 years. Size 15 blouse requires  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yards 39-inch fabric, skirt  $3\frac{3}{4}$  yards 39-inch or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards 54-inch fabric. Skirt width 138 inches. Price 35 cents.

No. 4089—Make this suit dress in brocade, damask, taffeta or a dobby rayon for late afternoon and evening; or trim the long-sleeved version made in one of those new wools, with black velvet for a special-occasion suit. Skirt has eight gores, the jacket is darted at the waistline, has slash pockets and set-in long or short sleeves. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 40, 42 and 44-inch bust. Size 18 requires  $4\frac{1}{4}$  yards 39-inch or  $3\frac{3}{4}$  yards 54-inch with nap. Price 35 cents.

State size and number for each pattern ordered.

Write name and address clearly.

Note price, to be included in order.

Order Simplicity Patterns from The Country Guide Pattern Service, Winnipeg, Manitoba, or direct from your local dealer.



4486



4428



3890

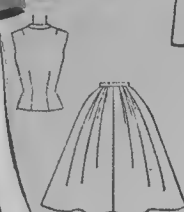


4463

4253



4321



4089



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# The Cat And the Pheasant

*Tommy was an aristocrat and a philosopher  
and so was one of the three visiting pheasants*

by CYRIL L. BATTEN.

**A**TOMCAT, sleek and well fed, may make a docile pet, but he has a tendency to be something of an autocrat.

Because of this attitude, and the fact that cats seldom seem to exert themselves to please just any human being, many people prefer dogs. Dogs are such easy creatures to be friendly with, they seem to be willing to devote their lives to pleasing their master, and with very small encouragement demonstrate their affection to any person who appears even slightly interested.

On the other hand, a cat is an extremely independent animal and seldom distributes favors very lavishly. A self-respecting cat regards his life as his own. His friendship is not given lightly, but must be earned. Some people appreciate this fact and love and respect the cat for it—others are just plain dog-lovers.

Tommy is sleek. He has a short thick blue-grey coat, and is a king of his kind. He quite definitely has a personality of his own. He is always ready to co-operate with anyone, if he is given the choice, but he is very independent and will not be made to do anything with which he does not agree.

He is not a much-petted animal, gracing the parlor, and making himself at home in favorite chairs. He was brought up in the barn, and his life was supposed to be devoted to killing mice and rats wherever they appeared. Being a well fed and happy cat, he has always enjoyed this little chore.

There are no longer many mice, and no rats for him to catch, so he has, on his own initiative, enlarged his sphere of operations and in the summer months he strolls into the bush in the morning and hunts for bigger game. Often he brings home a rabbit which he has killed for himself. He seldom is very hungry, since he is fed twice daily, but he does, like a meat ration in his diet, and prefers to supply his own.

Most cats like to eat meat which is freshly killed, but Tommy has his own system. After dragging his catch to the barn he takes it to an unused stall at the end of the barn which happens still to have an earth floor. There he digs a hole, not too deeply, and pushes the rabbit into it. Then he covers the whole thing with hay.

It seems as though he enjoys every bite of that rabbit, even though it lasts for a week or more, and each day after he has drunk his milk he repairs to that hole for a feed. When his visits cease it is time to remove the debris, and all that will be found remaining will be the head, fur, and the four feet. A very tidy cat.

Into the domain of this meat-hungry hunter, last winter, came three pheasants. They also were hungry, and came into the barnyard to pick up anything which could be found that would improve their diet.

Pheasants are not too plentiful in the district, but they make a colorful addition to the winter scenery, so they were welcomed. Feed was

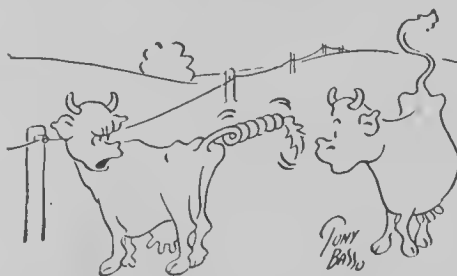
placed out for them every day. They came daily and looked for it, after a while.

Even these birds had temperaments; each his own. The one hen bird only came into the barnyard after the two cock birds had been there for a few minutes. She was most cautious; and any sudden or strange noise, or the appearance of a human being, caused her to take immediately to the air.

**W**HILE she drummed her way into the nearby trees, in search of shelter and security, the cock birds would alertly inspect their immediate surroundings. This period of alertness invariably ended in the same manner. One cock bird would take off and follow the hen, making a great commotion as he did so. The other disinterestedly put his head down and started once more to look for the grain scattered in the snow.

His imperturbability, however, was not entirely genuine. The pecks he made at the grain were interrupted by quick glances over his shoulder to make sure nothing took advantage of him.

However, it was not very long before he came to know the farmyard folk, and he proved a good mixer. The



*"Steer clear of those two Blakley kids. They wrapped it around the fence, then turned the juice on!"*

cows were unable to worry him at all, and he spent much time under their feet while they ate a grain ration at a trough in the yard.

He got along very well with Jock, the dog. For some time he did resent it when the dog trotted over to inspect him and sniff at him. At such times his comb would rise and become a brilliant red. His tail would stand defiantly erect and he uttered indignant crowing noises as he ran in a circle round behind the dog, where he would again relax and resume his feeding.

It was when the cock pheasant met Tommy that life in the farmyard became interesting.

Tommy liked the pheasant as soon as he saw him; he gave a great miaow of delight and bounded after the bird joyously. The bird left immediately, with indignant protests.

The next meeting was a more cautious one, as far as Tommy was concerned. He loved to go back and forth to the well, as water was carried to the animals in the barn. The pheasant too, by this time, had formed the habit of asserting his proprietary interest in the barnyard and managed to be always underfoot.

So the two passed and repassed for several days. Tommy always affecting

nonchalance, and giving only small attention to the pheasant. The bird, in turn, just pretended Tommy was not there. Indeed, sometimes he went further. He would turn from his feeding as Tommy approached, and sit comfortably down in the snow and stare with interest at the cat.

Tommy made no attempt to molest the pheasant, and their trust in each other was a touching thing to observe.

That this was entirely according to the plan the cat had made, became increasingly obvious, however. Tommy took to approaching the corner of every building with extreme care; to looking carefully over each small snow-drift before he allowed his body to be seen. If he raised his head to spy out the land and found himself looking straight into the eyes of the pheasant, he made much ado about business elsewhere. Leaving the pheasant to continue his eating, he would bound away to the barn, or playfully chase a wisp of hay which lay nearby.

It was after this by-play had proceeded for two or three weeks that the climax of the hunt arrived.

Some bales were being opened for the cattle to cat. The feeding place was in the trees, and well tramped from previous use. As was his habit, Tommy was there, pouncing on the baling tie as the twine was unrolled from the bale.

Suddenly Tommy left his play and pounced noiselessly on an already-opened bale. Beyond the bale, slightly behind a small tree, and only six feet distant from the cat was the apparently unsuspecting pheasant. He was there for company, but was putting on a great show of scratching dead leaves out of the snow.

The unrolling of bales continued, until it was noticed that this time Tommy was ready to act. The time and place suited him. His opportunity had arrived.

The scene was filled with drama. The pheasant would not even deign to look at the cat, who was obviously intending to kill. Tommy was belly down in the snow. His chin was flat down on the ground as he strove to make himself unnoticeable. His hind legs were tensed for the spring.

**O**NLY his hind toes were on the ground, and his body twitched as he dug first one sharp-clawed foot down, and then the other, to gain a foothold to give him a lightning pounce on his victim.

Now the pheasant was alert, but not alarmed. It was obvious that if the cat sprang that short distance the bird could not get away.

It was time to intervene.

"Tommy." The name, spoken so'tly, did not appear to upset the cat's plans in the least.

"Tommy." This time the call was sharper, a little louder.

Tommy relaxed; glared balefully over his shoulder. Then suddenly he gave up his little plan. He rolled over and over miaowing, and saying as plainly as if he had spoken, "Who, me?" He leaped at the bale tie again, as though nothing had happened.

Now Tommy sits for an hour at a time and watches the pheasant meandering round the yard. He has passed up several good chances to catch the bird. But he does nothing, just sits and watches.

Maybe he is dreaming of the swell world it would be for cats, if there were no interfering humans. V



# Mistletoe Bough

*The mistletoe at Christmas is a carryover into our festival seasons of an Icelandic Edda*

by CAPT. T. KERR RITCHIE

“THE mistletoe hung in the castle hall,” drones the melancholy old song of Thomas Haynes Bayly (1797-1839). His “admired drawing-room ballads,” such as “We met—’twas in a crowd,” “She wore a wreath of roses,” “Gaily the troubadour touched his guitar,” were the delight of England and the United States in the 1880’s and ’90’s. If “The Mistletoe Bough” lives on beyond the rest, it is because of so long an association with Christmas that most people look upon this song as a sort of carol.

When mistlctoe is used as a decoration, it must always be hung from the ceiling; never pinned against the wall like holly, nor trailed across the top of a picture frame, nor set in a vase among the other evergreens. Probably the reason for this ruling is forgotten, except by students of Norse mythology.

According to the Icelandic Edda, Loki, the evil principle, whose kingdom was the earth, plotted against Balder, the sun god. However, Frigga,



*“It won’t be long until we cut this tree down! Just listen to the saw sing!”*

wife of Odin and mother of the gods, exacted an oath from everything in Loki’s realm, fire and water, steel and gold, bird and snake, not to do Balder harm. A twig of mistletoe she passed by, thinking it too young and tender for mischief. So the gods in their rough Norse way got up a shooting-match, with the invulnerable Balder for target. But they reckoned without Loki, who, having twisted the pliant twig of mistletoe into an arrow, coaxed Hoeder, the blind god, to try a shot. The arrow pierced Balder, who fell dead.

After his death the plant mistletoe was given into Frigga’s own special care; and she decreed that it must never again touch earth, to work evil thereon. That is why it is rooted in the bark of trees and grows as a parasite near treetops. Hoeder has been identified with Cupid, and, as the mistletoe is still under the protection of Frigga, all Cupid can do is to permit a chaste kiss in its shade at Christmastide!

The tree which mistletoe as a parasite finds most tempting is the

apple, which tempted Adam and Eve. After a feast on the gummy berries, birds wipe off on the bark of some tree the seeds sticking to their beaks. The viscid, semi-transparent pulp in which the seeds are wrapped, soon

hardens on the bark; and no trec has a better, more tender cortex than the apple, for mistletoe rootlets to penetrate. In default of apple trees, the plant will make do with black poplars, or with silver firs, limes, and larches. Even an oak will serve its turn, though it is, on the whole, rather a rare guest on oak trees. This explains why, when it was found growing in a sacred oak, it was treated with ceremony by the Druids.

Pliny is one of our authorities for saying that mistletoe might only be cut from an oak, with a golden sickle, by a Druidical priest robed in white.

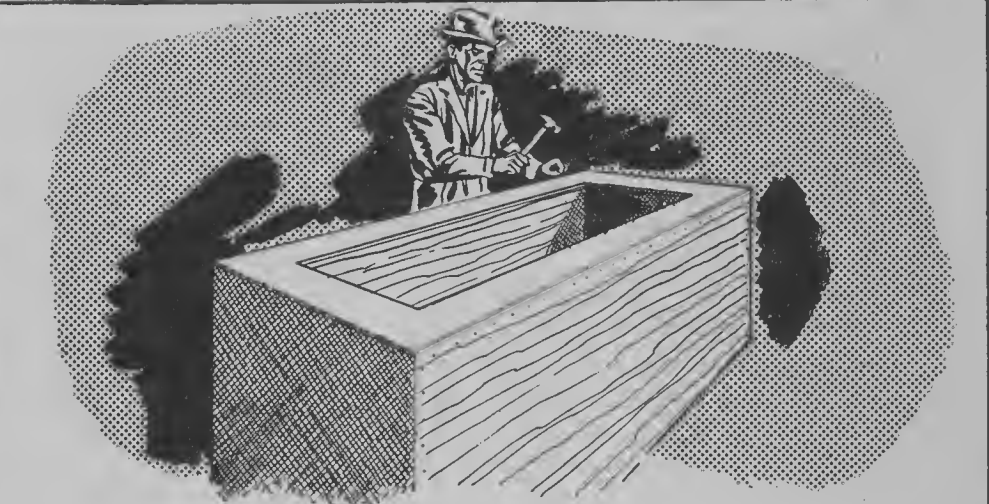
Two white bulls were then sacrificed on the spot, to the oak spirit.

The Druids thought so well of the mistletoe as a remedy that they called it “all heal.” French medicine allows of the use of its leaves in cases of blood pressure. We only use it as a decoration and then never in churches. As for the “old” custom of “kissing under the mistletoe,” this is no older than the 17th century: but who would not steal a kiss under the protection of the blind Hoeder or Cupid’s arrow; and what is that to a plant which remembers Druid priests and Norse gods?

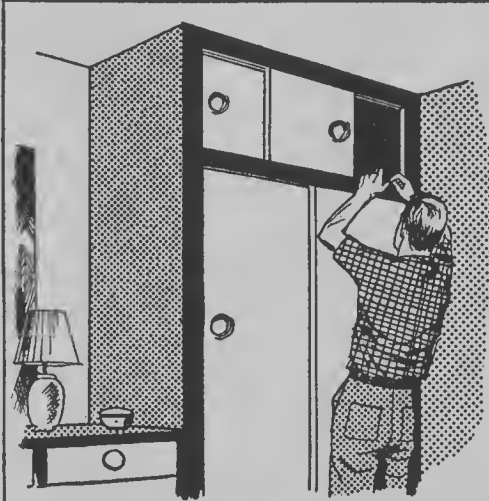
## Look what people are doing with SYLVAPLY DOUGLAS FIR PLYWOOD



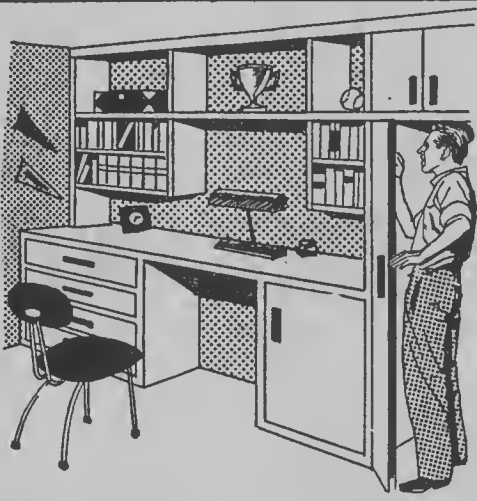
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"It's quite economical, too—I get over three quarts of fresh nourishing *whole* milk from a pound."

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## They Magic Roses From The Hat

Continued from page 9

Snapdragons, tulips, daffodils, Shasta daisies, sweet peas, gladioli and stocks come in for the late winter and Easter trade. Potted plants, such as azaleas, cyclamen, and cineraria are important for the Christmas trade. Whitmani and Boston ferns (something like the sword fern) are popular at home and abroad all year round. In addition, most of the greenhouses raise plumosa and springeri asparagus fern to add to bouquets.

While some of the greenhouses dabble in the florist end of the business, the general attitude is: "That's a special line. Let the boys uptown handle it." In fact, most of the local florists are former hothouse employees, and literally know their flowers from the ground up.

A few of the greenhouses carry a few florists' supplies, such as baskets, wreath frames, fancy ribbon, and moss for packing wreaths. All the cut-flower greenhouses import flat fern, huckleberry foliage and cedar, from British Columbia, for the convenience of florists. Such items take up considerable refrigerator space, which is more costly uptown than down on the river bank. Any surplus flowers are held over in the cooler, so they remain perfectly fresh. The temperature there is just above freezing—so wear a warm jacket if you go visiting.

Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg are the chief markets for cut flowers. Winnipeg is the largest buyer of small potted plants for "growing on" to larger size before re-sale. Small bedding plants are shipped in quantity for city parks.

Some hothouse growers sell in volume at the plant itself. Others display their wares at the groceries uptown, and sell a considerable volume of young vegetable plants to homeowners. This "basket stuff" brings a nice income, but it does demand attention to detail. A remarkably large quantity of young plants goes out to the same markets as for the cut flowers. Medicine Hat Greenhouses Ltd. considers its hothouse vegetables only a "filler," a profitable use of the period between chrysanthemum crops. Tomatoes and cucumbers go into the beds in February. By the time their stalks are in the discard, it's June or July, and time for chrysanthemums again.

**T**HE truck gardens produce bumper crops of vegetables, which get their early start in adjoining greenhouses. Thousands of tons of fresh vegetables are shipped out yearly from The Hat—1,000 tons of onions alone. Cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce and celery get their start indoors. Green peppers are another item to bring in a pretty penny.

Melons—cantaloupe and watermelon and honeydew—are of excellent quality, due to rapid growth and freedom from frosty setbacks. Field tomatoes come in volume, in addition to the hothouse cucumbers and tomatoes which tempt jaded appetites in winter.

"We've been growing Spine cucumbers ever since I've been here, and that's 12 years," said Bob Morris. "We

save the seed from year to year. But we're thinking of getting away from it, to use a smaller cucumber. This is a little larger than the trade cares for."

The public has been downing those cucumbers at quite a rate, just the same. Each season, Medicine Hat sends out 12,000 cases of hothouse cucumbers, and 15,000 cases of hothouse tomatoes. Before the field crops are in production, 500-600 cases of these two vegetables are shipped out each Monday and Friday, with slightly smaller figures on the days in between. For instance, a single May shipment bound for Edmonton, contained 137 cases of hothouse tomatoes and 302 of hothouse cucumbers, a total of 10,682 pounds.

**P**RACTICALLY all the flowers and vegetables are shipped in C.P.R. freight cars, heated in winter, refrigerated in summer. In rare instances, where a bridge is out, or a landslide blocks the rails, heated trucks are



[Richard Harrington photo]

*This attractive young lady attends to some of the multiplicity of chores that go with raising plants under glass.*

used. In the last few years, small shipments have been made by air. "But on the whole, the C.P.R. does the job swell. We got no kick," said one hothouse man.

Jim Cassels, express agent at the station, estimated that 50-60 boxes of flowers leave Medicine Hat daily except Saturdays. This average is vastly increased in December, when orders flood in for Christmas flowers and plants. The plants can be shipped out earlier, but in the week previous to the holiday, cut flowers fill 18 express cars with an average of 250 boxes each, destined for florist shops from Fort William to Vancouver.

"We try to hold the temperature at 40-45 degrees for flowers," said Mr. Cassels, "but it's better for them to be cooler rather than any warmer than that. Yep, it's a great business."

It is an impressive total altogether, both in volume and in dollars and cents. No magician's trick can be more impressive than the one Medicine Hat pulls out of a comparatively small hole-in-the-ground.

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# Recommendations for Weed Control

*Scientists review recommendations for the cultural and chemical control of weeds*

**R**EPRESENTATIVES from Manitoba at the seventh annual Western Canadian Weed Control Conference, recently held in Edmonton, estimated that weeds cost Manitoba farmers an average of \$1,000 per farm. The depletion of needed soil moisture and plant nutrients, reduced crop yields, increased tillage costs, and dockage in grain marketed, were responsible for the losses incurred.

The conference felt that in the face of such enormous losses, research work on weed control should be accelerated. A resolution was passed requesting the Canada Department of Agriculture, the four western Departments of Agriculture and the four western universities, to increase the support that they presently extend to weed control investigation.

A second resolution urged that the use of cleaning machinery in grain elevators should be discouraged for the preparation of seed. Although it was felt that cleaning in the elevator was probably better than not cleaning at all, it was better still to take seed to a regular cleaning plant, or have it cleaned on the farm. Any risk of having the seed contaminated should be avoided.



*Downy seeds, such as on this milkweed, easily drift from field to field.*

The tillage and cropping committee recommended using only sound, clean seed and killing as many weeds as possible before seeding, because uniform seeding at the proper depth facilitates the production of a good stand of vigorous seedlings. If after-seeding tillage is anticipated, the seeding depth should not be less than two inches. Packing after seeding, or seeding with a press drill, will hasten germination and give a better stand, more able to compete with weeds.

If there is any likelihood of a heavy infestation of 2,4-D-resistant weeds, seeding at 25 to 35 per cent over the rate recommended for the district will increase yields. Commercial fertilizers usually encourage earlier and more vigorous growth, and increase the competition that weeds must face. If weed seeds germinate before the crop has sprouts over half-an-inch in length, light tillage with a rod weeder, or

harrow, will often help to reduce weed infestation.

Broad-leaved weeds in the crop can be eliminated with either 2,4-D or MCP applied at recommended rates. Higher rates are needed for drought conditions, or cold, wet, cloudy weather, for weeds that are intermediate in their resistance to the chemicals used, and for crops heavily infested with weeds. The higher rates may injure the crop, but this should be offset by less weed competition in the crop.

TCA is steadily coming into more general use for controlling green foxtail in flax crops. The recommended rate of application is five to eight pounds per acre. TCA, used to control foxtail, is often applied with 2,4-D, or MCP, which kills the broad-leaved weeds: all weeds are therefore killed in one operation. TCA will also control green foxtail in field peas when applied at the rate of five pounds per acre.

**I**N 1953 a total of 12,121,000 acres were sprayed with herbicides in the four western provinces. This is 89.8 per cent of the acreage sprayed in 1952. The reduction was attributed to the wet spring in 1953, which frequently prevented spraying. Aerial spraying in Saskatchewan increased to 370,000 acres, also probably due to the wetness of the fields.

One of the more interesting recent developments reported at the conference was the introduction (except for a little used in 1952) of MCP, for use in place of 2,4-D, especially on such sensitive crops as oats, flax and legumes, including field peas. Approximately 24,000 pounds of the chemical were applied, and, although it is too early to judge how generally it will be used later on, its use for the control of broad-leaved weeds in field peas seems likely to become routine practice.

During the past summer, when TCA became generally accepted for the control of green foxtail in flax, it also was used successfully by a number of growers for controlling the same weed in field peas, and is now recommended for use on both crops.

The use of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T in eradicating woody growth from roadways, power and telephone lines and drainage and irrigation ditches, is proving effective and more economical than mechanical control. Dormant spraying, in which 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T are used in combination, with oil to replace water as a carrier, is proving as effective, or even more effective, than foliage spraying.

The use of the ester of 2,4-D in the control of weeds and woody growth in native pasture is gaining increased acceptance. It has been found that the elimination of weeds and scrub, especially Western Snowberry, will substantially increase the carrying capacity of pasture.

It has also been observed over the past year that there is a trend on the part of farmers to scale down the rate of application, when using selective herbicides. ✓

# "Why I traded in a Good Machine"

by A. T. KOCH  
of Rosser, Manitoba.

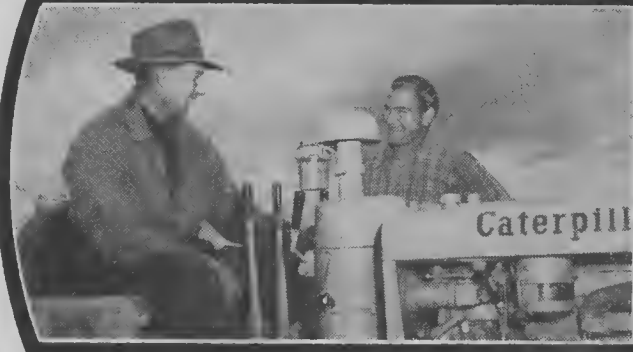
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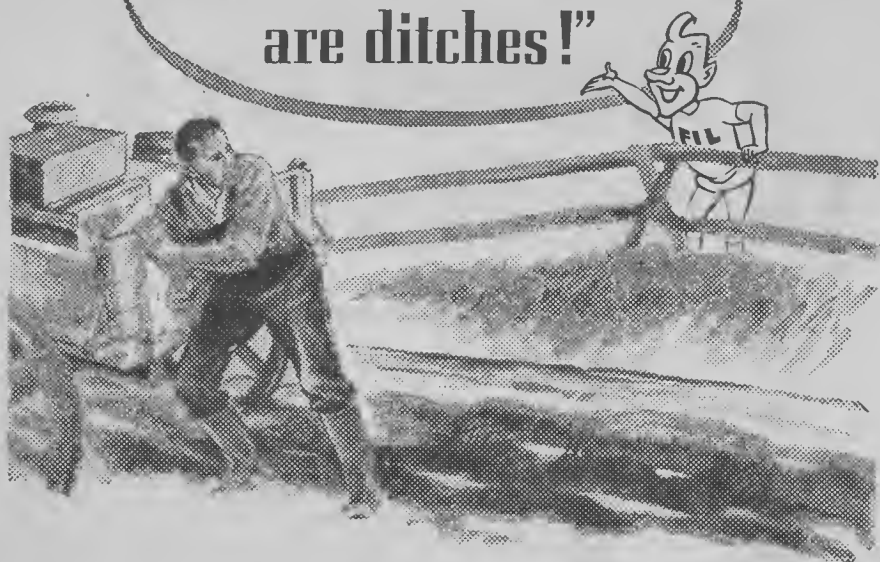
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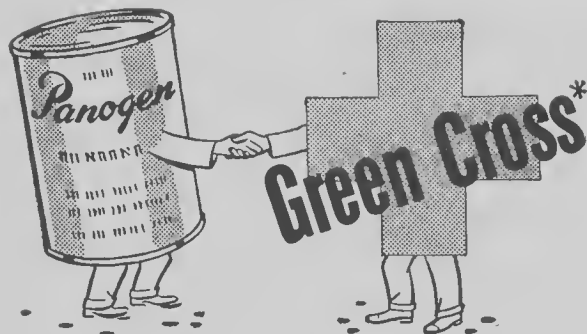
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## What About Next Year?

*Continued from page 7*

ment of a few informed persons against the combined forces of nature and the waywardness of human beings en masse may lead to defeat, but the effort should at least command the rewards due to valour expended in a good cause.

In the thinking of most prairie producers, the grain situation is normally dominant. They are, however, generally familiar with the implications of the grain situation this year, especially as it concerns storage and marketing. What is, perhaps, not so generally appreciated is that our abundance of grains also means an abundance of feed, the net amount of which is estimated at approximately 16 million tons of grain alone, which, reduced to the supply per grain-consuming animal unit, has reached a record of 1.08 tons. This basic fact, coupled with a slight easing in the price for both mill feeds and oilmeals in recent months, and generally adequate supplies of fodder at a somewhat higher level than a year ago, plus the assured benefit to eastern Canada and British Columbia of the policy of feed-freight assistance, has served to temper the annual anxiety of the livestock industry with respect to probable feed supplies.

(Total freight assistance during the past 12 years has amounted to more than \$198 million, and has been applied on over 32 million tons of feeds, at an average cost to the federal government of \$6.08 per ton. This means that the movement of 1.1 billion bushels of wheat, oats, barley, rye and corn has been assisted in this manner. Percentagewise, oats have accounted for more than 28 per cent of all feeds moved under this policy; mill feeds, 24 per cent; barley approximately the same; and wheat, slightly more than 21 per cent. Rye, corn and screenings combined, account for less than 3 per cent. Ontario has benefited most, securing approximately 41 per cent of the total, followed by Quebec with 38 per cent, the remaining 20 per cent being about evenly divided between New Brunswick, on the one hand, and British Columbia on the other, with small amounts going to Prince Edward Island and to Newfoundland.)

CARCASS gradings of hogs are expected to total about 35 per cent less in the last three months of this year, than in the corresponding period of 1952, as a result of the sharp contraction in hog production which occurred a year ago. As a result, too,

the hog-barley ratio reached 27.0 by mid-October (long-term average 17.4), and 100 pounds of B-1 hogs were worth nearly 1½ times as much as 100 pounds of good steers at Toronto. These factors, combined with feed grain delivery quotas in the West, and a generally favorable feed situation across Canada, give rise to the fear that farmers may rush back into hog production, by sharply increased breedings. Such a development could easily be reflected in a substantial surplus of hogs next fall, that must move to U.S. markets, where hog prices are expected to decline more than usual in the fall months.

Cattle marketings began to increase a year ago, after two years of building up farm herds. On June 1, this year, two-thirds of all cattle were those other than milk cows, or dairy heifers, two years old and over, making this the largest number of non-dairy cattle reported since 1920, with the exception of 1945. Beef cows and heifers during the year increased by 10 per cent, and yearling heifers by 7 per cent. This year, too, cows and heifers constituted only 36 per cent of all cattle marketed, as compared with 50 per cent in 1950, when cattle numbers were declining.

Marketings of slaughter cattle during the current cattle year (October to September) may increase by 285,000 over the previous year. More than half of these will come from western Canada, and about 185,000 of the increase will occur between January and September, 1954. Cattle prices are expected to be more stable than during the past year, though prices for the year may average slightly lower, to bring them in closer export relationship with U.S. prices. Retail prices for beef are expected to be lower than for pork. This, in turn, will mean a further increase in the domestic consumption of beef, which may amount to 780 million pounds, or about 14 per cent more than during the previous year. Total requirement, then, would be about 1.6 million head of cattle for the Canadian market, leaving approximately 200,000 head available for export, either on foot or as beef. By June 1, the number of cattle and calves on farms will probably exceed 10 million head, the largest number since 1920, except for the years 1944 and 1945.

There will also be a further probable increase in the marketings of calves. Relatively stable prices should prevail, subject to regular seasonal price adjustments. More veal will be eaten between now and next September—perhaps as much as 13 million pounds, or 16 per cent, more than last year. Next year, too, is likely to see a further increase in the marketings of sheep



*Representatives of the federal government at the agricultural conference included (left to right): Rt. Hon. James G. Gardiner, minister of agriculture; Dr. J. G. Taggart, deputy minister of agriculture, and chairman of the conference; R. McCubbin, M.P., parliamentary assistant to the minister of agriculture.*



and lambs, perhaps around 70,000 or 12 per cent, with further anticipated increases in domestic consumption of mutton and lamb.

Milk production next year may exceed the record of 17.6 billion pounds reached in 1945, if favorable conditions are met with. There should be as much incentive to use cows for milk production in 1954, as in 1953, because the relationship between the prices of butterfat and beef is expected to remain favorable to dairying. On the whole, with the condenseries recently seeking more milk, and the demand for cheese milk increasing, together with an anticipated steady demand for such products as evaporated milk, sweetened condensed milk, dry whole milk and casein, it would appear that the dairy farmer may look forward to a relatively stable 12-month period.

As of December 1, 10,000 more cases of eggs were being marketed per week in Canada than a year previous. More hens will likely be laying next year than this year, when prices remained well above support levels throughout most of the year, though prices of Grade A large eggs in Montreal varied from 43 cents in January to 77 cents in mid-September. Heavier marketings of eggs in the first half of 1954 are expected to bring lower prices than during the first six months of 1953. More eggs will be used for early hatching, and in the last half of the year, prices, though increasing seasonally, will depend almost entirely on the size of the season's hatch. The committee thought that the cost-price relationship may be less favorable for poultrymen next year, than it was this year, primarily because of a decline in egg prices, rather than because of any addition to prices of the commodities poultrymen must buy.

**F**OR the year 1952-53, Canada used about 147 million pounds of edible vegetable oils for the production of shortening and margarine. This was enough to use all of the soy beans and sunflower seed produced in 1952 in this country, and to require the importation of an additional 105 million pounds. This year the supply available from domestic sources for the crop year is at record levels. Sunflower seed acreage may double in 1954, and soy bean acreage will probably expand still further, with the prospect that the crop may reach 20 million bushels in 10 years' time, or approximately four times present production.

Production of flaxseed was down this year, and some further reduction is anticipated in 1954, primarily because flax cannot compete on even terms with wheat, at current prices. On the other hand, the acreage devoted to rapeseed in Saskatchewan was trebled this year. A further expansion is likely in 1954, because the crop is not subject to delivery quotas, and promises relatively quick cash returns. The production of dried peas also increased about one-third this year, which will permit exports of about 500,000 bushels. Since prices for both dried peas and beans have been relatively strong during the past year, further increases in acreages may develop. Sugar beet production, however, declined this year as compared with last year, mainly because of reduced acreage in Ontario and lower yields in Alberta. World sugar prices have declined recently so there may not be much disposition to expand acreage.

Forage crop seed prices are expected to retail for much less in 1954 than during this year, with the exception of creeping red fescue and Kentucky blue grass. Record stocks of alfalfa held in the United States, as well as heavy Alsike sweet clover and brome grass stocks held in both countries, have led to an unsettled and depressed market. Until present supplies have been substantially reduced, low prices are likely to continue, at around 15 cents per pound for alfalfa seed and double-cut red clover, 7 to 8 cents for timothy, 3 to 4 cents for sweet clover and brome grass, and prices for Alsike seed as low as 6 cents per pound. Despite an estimated 1953 production of 8.1 million pounds of creeping red fescue, prices are expected to hold at about the same as last year at around 27 cents a pound.

Not much change is anticipated in the prices of the things that farmers must buy during 1954. Because manufacturing costs have increased, some farm machinery prices may rise. There is, however, more farm equipment in the hands of dealers and manufacturers than a year ago, and in all probability, fewer units of such items as tractors and grain harvesting machinery may be manufactured, due to a smaller demand next year.

There will probably be about the same demand for farm workers in 1954 as was developed this year, but the situation may be a little easier for farmers, because of a gradual slackening off of demand in some other industries. As usual, there may be shortages during periods of peak requirements, which will be felt least by those who have taken steps to improve housing, employment and wage conditions on the farm, designed to retain workers in agriculture. V

**We blush a little bit:** An article about Broad-Breasted Bronze turkeys in our October issue, may have left the impression that this turkey type originated in the United States. Actually, its development was begun in England many years ago by Jesse Throssell, of Aldergrove, B.C., who came to Canada in 1904, and, as reported in *The Country Guide* in October, 1950, "has shipped turkeys to almost every state in the Union." These meaty birds had been called the John Bull strain by early American buyers, but in 1938 the strain was designated the Broad-Breasted Bronze by U.S. breeders, for the first time—and this name has stuck. Certainly, U.S. breeders have played some substantial part in the further development of the strain.

**While we are at it:** On page 84 of our September issue, an article entitled "Sheep Farming In The Okanagan," carried the statement: "A couple of years ago a cougar killed 40 ewes belonging to one flock owner near Vernon, before it was hunted down and shot." This sentence was incorrect, and a letter from the author indicates that it should have read: "A couple of years ago stray dogs and a cougar killed 40 sheep belonging to a flock owner near Vernon. The cougar was shot after it had killed five of the sheep."—ed.



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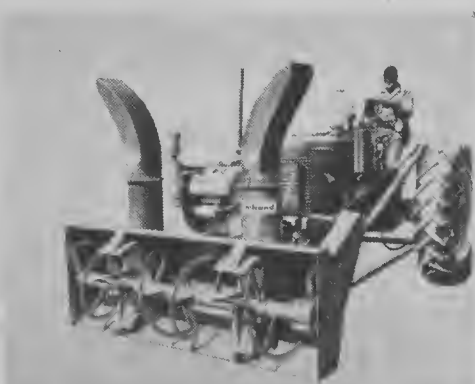
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## 4-H Winners from Each Western Province

*Clothing, food, beef, swine, poultry, grain, and potato competitions won in Canada competition*

**I**N nine competitions sponsored by the 4-H clubs, six provinces had top teams. Alberta had three winners, Saskatchewan two, and British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and New Brunswick one each.

In the Queen's Guineas event for young Ontario farmers, J. Charles Yule of Calgary, who was the judge, picked the two best animals from the Hereford, Shorthorn and Angus groups. Ross Graham, a 17-year-old lad from Palmerston, was the proud winner on a choice Angus steer which later was sold at \$2.25 a pound. It weighed 920 pounds. Reserve champion was the Hereford of Donald Vancise of Stayner. Entries in this Queen's Guineas class totalled 127. This is one of the most popular competitions of the entire show, both in spectator interest and in the enthusiasm with which Ontario's young farmers regard it. V



*The championship grain team came from Manitoba. Armand Godard (left), and Raymond Bullied, went to Toronto from the Holland 4-H grain club.*



*The two winning teams from Saskatchewan are shown above. Poultry winners, Gordon Ford, and Donna Lawrence, of the Maple Creek Club, are seated, while standing are Donald Anderson (left), and Claude Lemieux, of the Spruce Home 4-H swine club, winners in the swine competition.*



*British Columbia champion potato team. Members are John Pincoy (left) and Brian Veale of the Salmon Arm club.*



*Alberta sent three winning teams to Toronto. Winning food team, Betty Stone (left) and Wanda Waddy, came from the Alix 4-H food club. Clothing competition winners were the Howard sisters, Viola and Helen, representing the Munson clothing club. The winning beef team is shown at the rear. James Brown and Darrel Sutton represent the Tofteld 4-H beef cattle team.*

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## If you feel "ALL-IN"

These days most people work under pressure, worry more, sleep less. This strain on body and brain makes physical fitness easier to lose—harder to regain. Today's tense living, lowered resistance, overwork, worry—any of these may affect normal kidney action. When kidneys get out of order, excess acids and wastes remain in the system. Then backache, disturbed rest, that "tired-out" heavy-headed feeling often follow. That's the time to take Dodd's Kidney Pills. Dodd's stimulate the kidneys to normal action. Then you feel better—sleep better—work better. Ask for Dodd's Kidney Pills at any drug counter. 53

## Itch... Itch... Itch

**I Was Nearly Crazy**

Until I discovered Dr. D. D. Dennis' amazingly fast relief—D. D. D. Prescription. World popular, this pure, cooling, liquid medication speeds peace and comfort from cruel itching caused by eczema, pimples, rashes, athlete's foot and other itch troubles. Trial bottle, 43c. Greaseless. First use soothes, checks raw red itch or money back. Ask druggist for D. D. D. Prescription (ordinary or extra strength).



# Western Showmen Win at Royal

*In grain and seeds, cattle and sheep and hogs and other classes, western showmen had their share of winners*

by J. ALBERT HAND

**C**ELEBRATING its Silver Jubilee this year, the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto drew exhibits and visitors from around the world to add more laurels to those it had already won during its 24 years of growth. The largest cattle entry in its history, numbering 2,800 entries, vied in the show and auction rings with prancing horses and purebred sheep and swine, for the attention of livestock lovers. The sight of banks of brilliantly colored flowers and hundreds of boxes of gleaming apples caught the breath of marvelling spectators. Hundreds of other exhibits, crowded into every available bit of space in the buildings which boast a total floor area of 26 acres, made it a show which held some interest for every visitor.

One of the most treasured wins of all went to a young Alberta exhibitor, for the second consecutive year, when Ronald Leonhardt, of Drumheller, won the world wheat crown. He was, however, but one of many exhibitors bringing some of the eagerly sought awards to the West.

F. W. Dunn, Alexander, Man., contributed the junior and grand champion Clydesdale stallion, while A. E. Arnold of Shoal Lake, Manitoba, presented the reserve champions in each. Mr. Dunn also showed the grand champion mare, while the Experimental Farm at Lacombe, Alberta, had the reserve female. The grand champion Percheron stallion was shown by W. K. Russell, South Edmonton, while R. Freitag, Alameda, Saskatchewan, had the reserve champion gelding.

Shorthorn competition was keen, with one of the younger breeders, T. G. Hamilton of Innisfail, Alta., winning the trophy for Premier Breeder and Exhibitor. Searle Farms of East Selkirk, Man., had grand champion bull and Robert Harrison of Dafoe, Sask., stood first in the yearling class.

Warren Smith, Olds, Alberta, showed the top Hereford bull, while R. J. McClement, of Brandon, Manitoba, showed the senior and reserve grand here.

Western market cattle won six of the top nine awards in the competition

## Answers to Christmas Quiz

(Continued from page 38)

1. St. Nicholas, whose name is corrupted into Santa Claus. 2. Scrooge in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." 3. There are two islands by that name. One lies in the Pacific Ocean and one in the Indian Ocean. 4. Eugene Field, in his poem "Jest 'fore Christmas." 5. Generally interpreted as (a) a bachelor for life; (b) sign of a thrifty housewife; (c) good luck; (d) an inheritance of money. 6. In the 4th century A.D. 7. "Gold, and frankincense and myrrh." 8. Boxing Day is so called for the gifts or gratuities given to servants on the first week-day after Christmas Day, the gratuities being at one time placed in a box. 9. (a) Martin Luther; (b) Charles Wesley. 10. Chronology is the science of computing dates. 11. There must be four boys and three girls.

among cross-breeds and grades. Outstanding win for the West in dairy breeds was the achievement of the six-year-old Holstein bull Rockwood Rocket Tone. For the third time he was awarded the grand championship ribbon. He also was tops at the recent Chicago National Dairy Show.

Bred by Rockwood Farms of St. Norbert, Man., he has been in use at Belleville, Ont., where the Quinte District Cattle Breeders' Association are doing good work in breed improvement by artificial insemination. He is remarkable for size as well as quality, now weighing about 2,800 pounds.

A dozen flockmasters from the West carried home many ribbons from the sheep show; and 14 swine breeders from western Canada had entries in the Yorkshire classes. Carl Roberts and Son, St. Adolphe, Manitoba, showed the grand champion boar while E. E. Prill of Mannville, Alberta, won the reserve.

**P**ERUSAL of the awards made in a wide range of grain and seeds emphasized the fact that the Royal has developed into a genuinely international event. Championships went to England, Scotland, Ireland, and the United States as well as to most of the Canadian provinces. World champions declared included Elsoms Ltd., of Spalding, England, on winter wheat; Ronald R. Leonhardt of Drumheller, Alta., on spring wheat; G. S. Snow of Milk River, Alta., on two-rowed barley; Bert Young of Koksilah, B.C., on six-rowed barley; Chris Morck of Dickson, Alta., on rye; T. F. Rhatigan of South Edmonton, Alta., on oats; R. P. Robbins of Shaunavon, Sask., on

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CANADA'S FINEST  
CIGARETTE

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Equally effective for constipation, digestive upsets, and other minor infant troubles such as the restlessness and fretfulness resulting from irregularity at teething. No "sleepy" stuff—no dulling effect. Get a package today at your druggist.

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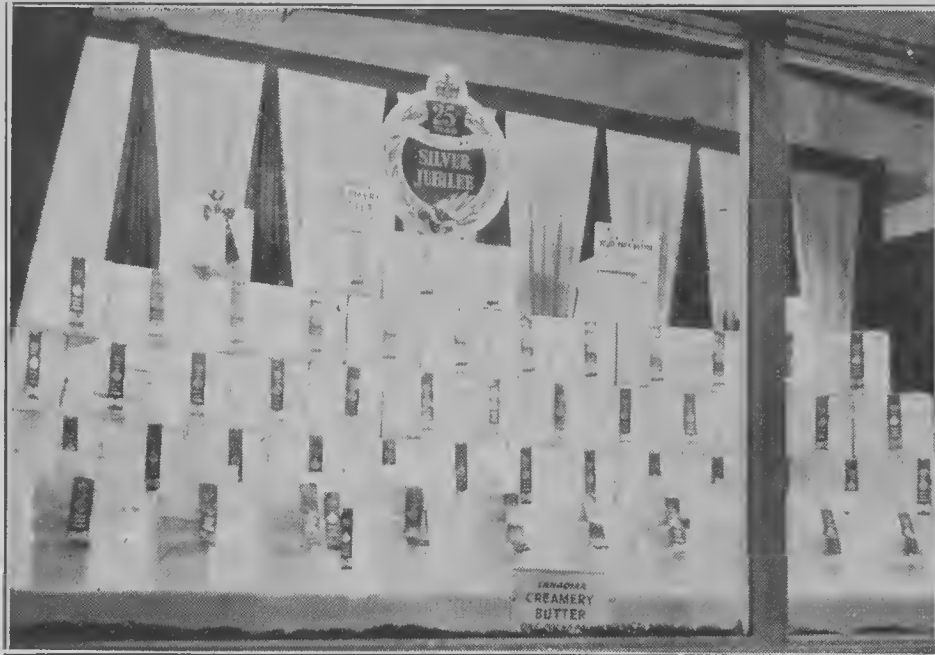
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Manitoba and Alberta creameries provided most of the butter exhibits at the Royal Winter Fair.

flax; Gustav C. Stein of Matheson, Ont., on peas; DePutter Bros. of Appin, Ont., on soy beans; Gabriel Kolometz of Dunning, Ont., on potatoes; T. Corlett of Clairmont, Alta., on legume seed collection, and John McMillan of Dalkeith, Ont., on grass seed collection. Featured in the display of grain and seeds was a fine assortment of cereals, grasses and legumes sent by the National Farmers Union of England under the supervision of Henry Burdt who operates on 1,000 acres and produces registered seeds. Photographic reproductions indicated what has been accomplished in recent years through scientific plant-breeding to grow leafier grasses and legumes and thus carry more livestock to the acre. Interviewed, Mr. Burdt said improved strains had been sent to Canada for experiment on individual farms and at experimental stations. Progress has been made on rye grass, orchard grass, timothy and meadow fescue. It was interesting to find that on 130 entries the Association had 100 prizes.

Entries in butter sections came chiefly from Manitoba and Alberta. Notre Dame Creamery won the special prize for total aggregate score and Northern Alberta Dairy Pool of Peace River got the champion ribbon for highest scoring exhibit in any section. Manitoba and Saskatchewan entries made strong competition for Ontario exhibitors of dressed poultry.

TO the sale by auction of animals entered in market classes, has been added in recent years the sale also of breeding stock. Outside buyers from Montreal and from United States brought keen bidding and satisfying returns. In fact the prices paid in some cases were somewhat fantastic. Winner in the Queen's Guineas class sold for \$2.25 a pound. This figure was beaten when Loblaws paid \$2.50 for the grand champion Shorthorn steer shown by E. F. Noad of Claresholm, Alta. The 127 Guineas' calves averaged 33.75 cents while 312 other high quality steers averaged 34½ cents. The grand champion market lamb

brought \$2.50 and the best pen of three went at \$1.00 a pound. The average on 252 was \$38.50 a hundred-weight. The grand champion market hog sold at \$3.00 a pound and the

reserve, \$2.00. The average on 68 prizewinners was \$48.40 a hundred-weight.

Real history was made when pure-breds went on the block. Several buyers from South America and Mexico were after Holsteins. A buyer from Brazil paid \$8,000 for J. J. E. McCague's Glenafton Nugget and one from Argentina took the Rockwood Farms bull, Rockwood Anthony Robaron at \$7,500. An Astengo cow went to Argentina at \$5,000. The average on 35 cows was \$2,128.

It was reported that buyers from seven provinces and three states bought Shorthorns. The top price on one cow was \$4,475, and the highest bull price, \$4,050. Average on nine bulls and 24 females, \$1,039.44. Two Dual-Purpose Shorthorn bulls averaged \$450 and 21 cows, \$329.30. Top in Herefords was \$4,200 for the Weber Ranch bull. Seven bulls averaged \$1,103.60, while 46 cows made \$508.80. The average on 49 Aberdeen-Angus was \$802.50 with a high of \$3,000 on one cow and \$2,000 for one of four bulls.

## Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 22 in series—by CLARENCE TILLENIUS

THERE is something magical about moonlight. On a frosty night, when the moon is full, the farmyard takes on a rare and mysterious beauty. The familiar and everyday objects which you pass in the daytime, without giving them a second look, are somehow changed by that silver radiance in eerie, unfamiliar shapes, melting into the beauty of the night. Nothing seems as you see it by day.

When the moon was full and the coyotes howled on a winter's night, near the farm, often as a boy, I used to take my rifle and dog and follow them, sometimes for miles. I must confess that I never caught up to a coyote on those moonlight rambles. Only to be out on the moonlight prairie was reward in plenty.

Drawing or painting a picture of moonlight brings up problems. Unless you have some artificial light for contrast, such as a campfire, lighted window or an open doorway, the picture

may look cold in color. Shadows in the moonlight are warm—brownish or purple—for moonlight itself is cool, with a greenish or silvery tone. In moonlight there is little or no detail to be seen in the shadows. Your picture becomes largely a pattern in silhouette—not unlike a poster. In part, this is the secret of the beauty of a moonlight scene. All distracting details of things are hidden and only the basic shapes remain.

When sketching by moonlight, it is probably best to make only black and white sketches and write your notes of the color you see. It is difficult to paint in color by moonlight so that it appears true by daylight.

Remember too, that by moonlight, as by sunlight, shadows lie in perspective away from the source of light. This means that the lines of shadow must be drawn so that they appear as if cast by the moon. The sketch illustrates this point.



### Epitaph

Here lies the mother of children  
seven,  
Four on earth and three in heaven;  
The three in heaven preferring  
rather  
To die with mother than live with  
father.

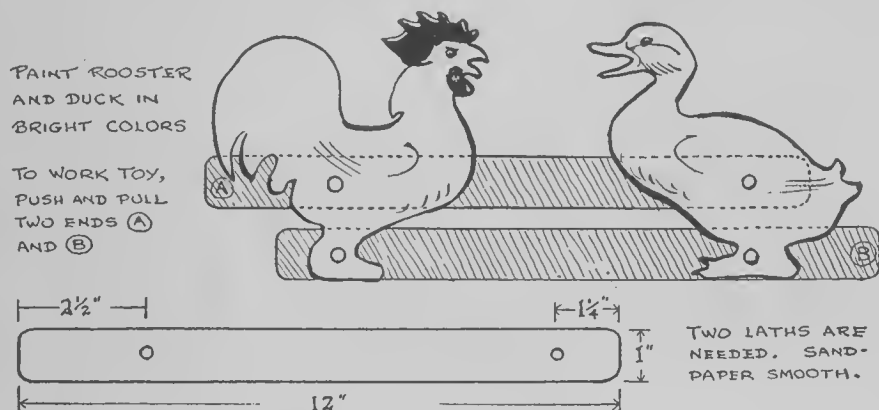


# The Country Boy and Girl

WITH thoughts of Christmas in the air, December is a busy month for everyone. We have plans for Christmas concerts at school, parties with our friends and gifts made ready for giving.

You could make this amusing jointed creature for a brother or sister or a friend. It's something that will give them lots of fun and you will enjoy making it.

Use two laths twelve inches long, one inch wide and one-quarter inch thick. Round off the ends and sand all surfaces. Bore holes as shown in the diagram. On a piece of plywood or pressed wood draw a rooster and a duck with the



greatest height equal to five inches and the greatest width five inches. Now take your coping saw and cut out the rooster and duck. Work slowly so that you do not chip the outlines.

Lay the two birds on a table facing each other. Then lay two laths on them so that the laths are parallel to each other and about one-quarter inch apart as shown in the diagram. The bored holes in your top lath will fall directly above those in the lower piece. Mark points on the birds to indicate where holes will be bored to correspond with those in the laths. Bore these holes.

You are now ready to assemble. Use three-quarter or one-inch cotter pins to fasten the rooster and duck to the laths. Use bright colors to paint this toy. When you move the slats back and forth the duck pecks at the rooster and the rooster charges back at him.

*Ann Sankey*

## Jack Frost

by Sylvia Patterson

*I called him a thief and a vandal,  
When I found ere the dawn of the day,  
He'd crept into my garden of flowers  
And stolen their beauty away.*

*I'd forgotten that Jack was a painter,  
And must have models, his prints to  
attain.*

*For I found my fair garden this  
morning,  
Etched in silver on my windowpane.*

## Santa's Mail Bag

by Mary Grannan

TRUDIE never dreamed, the day that she wrote to Santa Claus, of all the excitement she was going to cause in his workshop. Had she known, I'm sure she'd never have written the letter. It was snowing the morning that Trudie wrote the letter.

Her mother had said at breakfast time, "Find something to do indoors today, Trudie. You have a bad case of the sniffles, and I don't want you to go out into the storm."

"I don't think that soft snow hurts sniffles," said Trudie. "And I could put my scarf around my nose."

"You're going to keep your nose in the house, Miss," smiled Mother.

Trudie sighed. It was not that she was worried about finding something amusing to do in the house. Trudie could always find things to do. It was just that she loved to play among the starry snowflakes. She pondered the situation. "I know what I'll do, Mum," she said. "I'll write a letter to Santa Claus. I've been intending to write to

him for a long time, and Christmas is getting closer every day, so if I don't get my letter off to him soon, he won't know what I want from him."

"That's a very good idea," said Mother. "You'll find writing paper and envelopes in the desk in the living room. Don't ask him for too much, Trudie. Remember, he has to give toys to all the children in the world, and you don't want to appear selfish."

Trudie nodded. "I'm just going to ask him for one thing, Mum." About an hour later, Trudie's letter was finished. She read it over, greatly satisfied with her efforts.

Dear Santa Claus:

*I hope you are well. I am fine too. It is snowing today. Mum would not let me go out. I have the sniffles. I hope you do not have them. Would you please bring me a doll for Christmas? I would like a pretty doll with a silk dress and brown pigtails and eyes that sleep. I need a doll, Santa Claus. The one that you brought me last year is not pretty now. She has no clothes. I lost them. Her hair is all tatted because I spilt some jam on her head, and the jam washed out, but it left her hair all mussy. One of her arms is lost too, on account of how my dog, Blackie, chewed it up one day. I just happened to poke her eyes in with a pencil too, so her eyes are inside of her head and I can't get them, so will you please bring me another doll.*

From your friend,

Trudie Fair.

Trudie folded the letter, then put it into an envelope, addressed it to

Santa Claus, stamped it, and later posted it.

SANTA was very busy when Trudie's letter arrived at his castle. He said to the little brownie, Pixie Poo, who brought the mailbag to him, "Would you check the mail today? Read through the letters for me, and line up and label the things that the children are asking for."

"I'd be glad to do that, Santa Claus," said Pixie Poo. He dragged the mailbag into the doll room. Pixie Poo liked the dolls and the dolls liked Pixie Poo. "Who'll give me a hand with the mail?" he said, as he settled himself on the floor.

"I will," said a rag doll.

"I will," said the pretty walking doll, stepping from her crimson box.

Several others volunteered their services. Trudie's letter happened to be near the top of the heap, and the walking doll read it. She cried, "Oh, listen to this." She read the letter aloud.

The dolls looked at one another in fear and trembling. Was this what lay ahead of them? Tatted hair, and eyeless faces? A dog that would chew their arms from their bodies? The humiliation of losing all their clothes was more than they could bear.

The walking doll said, "I'm not going in Santa's bag on Christmas Eve. I thought that children loved us. You can just go and tell Santa Claus that I'm not leaving this doll room."

"Tell him we all feel the same way," said the doll on the silver skates. "I'd be a sight in no time. My skates would be gone, and my little skating costume would be covered with jam. Tell Santa, Pixie Poo, that we refuse to go into his toy bag."

Pixie Poo sighed. "I'll tell him, but I don't think it'll do any good. Santa Claus tries to give the children what they want at Christmas. He'll be sorry that you feel the way you do, but he'll take you to the children, just the same." Pixie Poo left the doll room.

"Dolls," said the beautiful skater. "I think Pixie Poo is right about Santa Claus. We'll have to take matters into our own hands. We'll all run away. We'll hide in the ice caves until after Christmas."

When Pixie Poo came back to the doll room, there was not a single doll in sight. Pixie Poo went dashing back to Santa Claus.

He shook his head, and his usually merry face was filled with gloom. "They've been very unfair, Pixie Poo," said Santa Claus. "They judged all the little children by one. That isn't right, you know!"

"What are you going to do, Santa Claus?" asked the worried Pixie Poo. "It won't seem like Christmas without dolls in your toy bags."

"I'm going to turn on the loud speaker tonight, when I make my radio broadcast to the children. Our dolls can't be very far away, Pixie Poo. Some of them will be sure to

hear the broadcast. I hope that they'll come back," said Santa Claus.

That night, when Santa Claus spoke to the children of the world, he said, "Good evening, Boys and Girls, I'm not my usual happy self tonight, because we've had a bit of trouble in Santa Claus Land. A letter came in our mailbag today, from a little girl who wanted a doll. She had not taken care of the doll I took her last year. She pushed that dolly's eyes in with a pencil. She lost all of that dolly's clothes. She let her pet dog have the doll as a plaything. The little dog, thinking the doll was something to chew on, tore one of the arms from its body. My new dolls read the letter, and fearing that all children were like the little girl who wrote the letter, have run away. I know that all children are not like this. If the dolls are listening, I promise them that if they will come back, they'll be well taken care of by those with whom I leave them, on Christmas Eve. A little girl with the sniffles wrote me a letter. I wonder if she'd write again. I think she has something else to say to me." There was a great clattering in the broadcasting studio behind Santa Claus just then, and he laughed merrily. "Everything is all right, children. The dolls have come home. They'll be in your stockings on Christmas Eve. Goodnight everyone."

A red-faced Trudie turned away from the radio, and said to her mother, "Mum, may I please have some more of your writing paper? I have to write another letter to Santa Claus."

## Things to Make

PERHAPS you would like to make something "different" to use as a bit of decoration for a table, or as a holder of a place-name card, or to add an amusing touch for little sister's Christmas stocking. Cut out the picture of a brightly colored paper doll. Make a dress for her of crepe paper, gathering it in at the waist. Cut off the paper legs and arms and add candy stick limbs instead. This bright creature will delight a small child or provide entertainment for grown-ups.

Make yourself a sweetly feminine posie for your lapel. Rescue a few small but brightly colored flowers from an old hat or a discarded bunch of artificial flowers. Pleat a little tulle or lace into a frill around the outside, in such a manner that your posie is "flat." Wind the stems of the flowers together firmly, covering them with narrow green ribbon or cellophane tape.

You can make attractive trays for serving, by lacquering pie tins in colors to blend with a set of china. These fitted with dainty paper lace doilies would be a welcome gift for mother or a friend, who likes to serve individual pass-around lunches on the lawn or verandah in the summertime.

Make Santa Claus place-card holders by fitting cut-outs of Santa's face onto red apples. Tape toothpicks to the cut-outs then insert in apples.

# THE *Country* GUIDE

with which is incorporated

THE NOR'-WEST FARMER and FARM and HOME  
Serving the farmers of Western Canada Since 1882

VOL. LXXII WINNIPEG, DECEMBER, 1953 No. 12

## Christmas Again

ANOTHER Christmas will soon be here—the Christmas of 1953. Each year when the festive season arrives, millions in Canada and in other countries, react to its joyous message according to their separate opportunities and interpretations of its spirit.

Christmas is celebrated in many lands, and is marked by the observance of differing customs, some of them so ancient that their origins are pagan. Their continued use, so long after the beginning of the Christian era, is a mark of the long, slow process of evolution.

Wherever Christmas is celebrated, however, it takes its inspiration from the birth of the Christ Child, the beautiful story of whose coming is told so well in the second chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke:

*"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."*

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*

*"... And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

Many people will be troubled as Christmas approaches this year. Disappointment, sorrow, sickness and death cannot be regulated. Many will feel the joy of Christmas less, because they know that the world is sick in mind and heart, torn apart by disputations and irreconcilable points of view. Most of us are philosophical and fully rational only when we are experiencing relative quiet and contentment, but few have been able to enjoy either quiet or contentment in recent years.

What is there to be said about Christmas in 1953. Certainly nothing that is very new: nothing in fact, beyond saying that Christmas means as much this year as it ever did. The spirit of Christmas is embodied in the virtues of good will, good cheer and good thinking; and surely these were never more desired by more people, than at this point in the history of man.

There are other elements of the good life which make Christianity a distinctive religion, but the virtues specifically referred to are elements of which all men can approve. It cannot be denied that in those parts of the world where Christianity has been most generally accepted, civilization has reached its highest known peaks. In such areas the individual has come nearest to achieving equality of opportunity to develop his virtues and abilities, with the encouragement of the society in which he dwells. That the world will not be at peace by Christmas 1953 means only that man is not perfect; and not that Christmas is less meaningful because wars have not ceased, poverty been abolished and the causes of unhappiness and sorrow removed. V

## Still Not Satisfactory

ELSEWHERE in this issue appears a report of the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference, held annually in Ottawa around the first of December. Following the Conference held a year ago, we offered some criticism on this page, with particular reference to the inconclusive language of most of the reports. This year we were able to recognize, as did many delegates, a definite attempt, more noticeable in some reports than in others, to predict directly the probable course of production and prices during the coming year.

This acknowledgement having been made, equal honesty compels us to add that in no other respect

was the Conference an improvement over that held a year ago. We did not meet a single delegate who believed, or who had talked with any other delegate who believed, that the Conference had been at all satisfactory. The aimless speeches, some of them unduly long, were mostly boring; those that were to the point were buried. Beyond the reports, there was, for the most part, nothing for the farmer on the land, on whose behalf such conferences are presumably held.

Since we have criticized, we venture two or three suggestions for what they may be worth. The first is that the conference would be more effective if no ministers were present. This is not suggested because the ministers are not good men in their proper positions, but because they work at a different level from the other federal and provincial representatives present, as well as those who are present from farm organizations. Their presence inhibits frank discussion. The second suggestion is that after some exchange of views between delegates, the Conference could well be broken up into committees to deal with groups of associated commodities. After careful examination of the appropriate reports, resulting perhaps in some shortening or amendment, these could then come before a plenary session for explanation or discussion. We believe that by this method the weight of the Conference itself would be added to the comments and suggestions originating with the technical committees. The responsibility for any predictions would be shared by a much broader group than a small committee of federal civil servants, however able and qualified these are. In short, changes of this nature should tend to substitute achievement for frustration. V

## Labor and Livestock

THE June 1 livestock survey indicated that the number of pigs in Canada is substantially down from a year ago. Cattle numbers were up in every province, except Manitoba. These circumstances point up, to some extent, the instability which has characterized the livestock industry, especially in western Canada, during the postwar years.

Scarcity of labor, rather than of markets, has been the factor limiting expansion of the livestock industry. Labor has been both scarce and costly. Farm wages have risen to unprecedented heights; much higher, in fact, than have other costs included in the index figures of the Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa. As matters stand now, and have during most of the postwar years, many farmers can make better use of their own time and of hired labor, by growing crops.

In western Canada particularly, we have had a long period of favorable crop years. Crop production has become very highly mechanized, from hay making to sugar beet harvesting. Prairie farmers have spent hundreds of millions of dollars during these years, in mechanizing the production of their major crops. In this process of conserving human labor they have been assisted by our universities and experimental stations, no less than by the makers of farm implements and power equipment. These years have been bonanza years for the implement makers, as well as for farmers. Both have produced at an extraordinary rate; and year after year the implement industry has come forward with newer, faster, and better machinery designed to do more efficient work and to save labor.

The livestock industry, however, has lagged behind. A different kind of mechanization was required, which was not forthcoming. Our universities and experimental stations have paid much less attention to this promising field, than to crops. Our departments of agriculture are only now waking up to the importance of integrating the knowledge of the agricultural engineer with the hard-bought results achieved here and there by individual farmers.

The United States Department of Agriculture has recently estimated agricultural production and productivity for 1953. Taking 1939 as 100 in all cases, total farm production stands at 144; farm output per man-hour at 178; crop production per man-hour at 181; but livestock production per man-hour at 145. The man-hours required for all crops combined dropped to 74, while man-hours required for all livestock production (meat, dairy and poultry

products, wool) has risen to 101. If similar calculations were made for Canada, it is almost certain that the comparison between the economy of labor in crop and livestock production would be much less favorable to livestock, than in the United States. It is high time that the practical-minded livestock fieldmen and the agricultural engineers in the services of departments of agriculture and our universities, were turned loose on this vital problem of livestock management and economics.

## The C.F.A. and Farm Policy

A NOTABLE manifestation of the changes which have taken place in agriculture during the last quarter century, is the development of what is commonly called "farm policy." By this is meant, large measure at least, government participation in national agricultural affairs. It is particularly significant that this development is not restricted by any means to Canada, or to this continent. It has been imposed on governments and agriculture alike, in a very large number of countries whose governments vary from those which may be called democratic, to those which can only be described as dictatorship.

The fact that food is a vital necessity for every human being is basically responsible for this striking phenomenon of our time. A more immediate, but nevertheless fundamental, cause is the unrest, both political and economic, which has characterized most of the world since 1914. As to the policies arising out of these circumstances it is necessary to recognize two opposite tendencies. One, the less fortunate, is evidenced in those governments which are autocratic. Producers are oppressed in order that the purposes and interests of an autocratic government may be served. The other tendency is exemplified by the democracies, including countries possessing limited monarchies, such as the United Kingdom, Belgium, Sweden and Norway. Here, in every case, the object is to combine, as well as may be, the interests of the producer, with those of the consumer of food.

In North America the growth of farm policy, far as it relates to prices and markets, emerged from World War I, but took active form both in the United States and Canada, only after the financial debacle of 1929. It underwent a forced hothouse growth and development in the Thirties, but with the advent of World War II, became a more calculated, deliberate policy in this country. True as this is, however, it is also important to note that the calculation and the deliberation has been largely one-sided—the side of the government.

It may seem strange, but it is nevertheless a fact that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which was organized in 1935, has never fully developed and formalized its own views about this important aspect of modern farming. This is not as strange as it might seem at first glance. Farming, at the beginning of 1954, is vastly different in Canada from what it was at the beginning of World War I; and the difference is even greater if one thinks back to 1935. During the war years, every citizen was subjected to regimentation which secured the results for which it was imposed. The years of the cold war have marked a period of adjustment, of rapidly increasing costs, of declining export markets and more latterly of declining prices and lower net farm income.

Many of us may now lament the necessity for government price programs and other aspects of farm policy, but few deny the necessity, including governments themselves, or believe that we are likely ever to go back entirely to what is commonly called free enterprise. The reason, as someone has said, is that "The dissenting opinions of one generation become the prevailing interpretation of the next."

It is no easy task for a national organization of farmers to evolve and formulate a farm policy which will meet with general acceptance by its members. Much time will elapse and many meetings will be necessary of the special committee now set up for the purpose. Indeed, the committee will work in a slow and faithfully if it is to present a well-rounded statement of policy for consideration by the annual meeting of the Federation which will probably be held in western Canada in January, 1955. It would be too much to expect more than a progress report at the meeting in London, Ontario, next month.